

Sunday The Times 32p
 Australia 32p, Benelux 32p, Canada 32p, Channel Islands 32p, Ceylon 32p, Denmark 32p, Finland 32p, France 32p, Germany 32p, Greece 32p, Hong Kong 32p, India 32p, Ireland 32p, Italy 32p, Japan 32p, Korea 32p, Malaysia 32p, Mexico 32p, New Zealand 32p, Norway 32p, Pakistan 32p, Portugal 32p, Singapore 32p, South Africa 32p, Spain 32p, Sweden 32p, Switzerland 32p, Taiwan 32p, Thailand 32p, USA 32p, USSR 32p, Yugoslavia 32p

WEEKEND TIMES



CAN-CAN KING

Toulon-Lautrec's louches clubs, rowdy dance-halls and Parisian brothels adorn a thousand restaurant walls. Tomorrow's 16-page Weekend Times looks at the painter's finer points

ALL TOGETHER NOW



When Haydn wrote *The Creation* he knew not what he was starting. Tomorrow night 80,000 people will sing it simultaneously, and Weekend Times will count them in

Saturday Review



MY ADONIS

With body paint and G-string, Raphael Valente was moulded into a love god by his second wife. The Saturday Review embraces her achievement

EYE SPY



John Wells is old enough to remember when *Private Eye* was going to be called *Bladder*. In tomorrow's Review he pays tribute to the magazine's 30 years

TODAY IN THE TIMES

GORDIMER'S PRIZE
 Nadine Gordimer, the campaigning South African novelist, has won the Nobel Prize for literature. Philip Howard assesses her life and work Page 12
 ROYAL DELIGHTS
 Richard Cark, who today joins *The Times* as art critic, begins with a review of the Queen's pictures on loan to the National Gallery, and finds himself beguiled Page 15



Richard Cark, who today joins *The Times* as art critic, begins with a review of the Queen's pictures on loan to the National Gallery, and finds himself beguiled Page 15

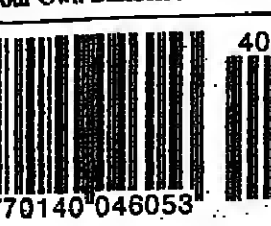
ROYAL DELIGHTS



Richard Cark, who today joins *The Times* as art critic, begins with a review of the Queen's pictures on loan to the National Gallery, and finds himself beguiled Page 15

INSIDE

Arts	15-20
Births, marriages, deaths	18, 19
Business	23-29
Classified	19, 26, 30-33
Court & social	18
Crosswords	19, 22
Law Report	33
Leading articles	17
Letters	17
Life and Times	14
Motoring	31
Obituaries	18
Sport	33-38
TV & radio	21
Weather	22
Your Own Business	32



Winning start for All Blacks

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

NEW Zealand won the opening match of the Rugby World Cup, deservedly defeating England 18-12 at Twickenham yesterday.

England led 12-9 at half-time after Roh Andrew dropped a goal and Jonathan Webb converted three penalties, but once the All Blacks had taken the lead England never again looked like scoring.

However, Will Carling, the England captain, was not too downhearted. "It wasn't a disaster," he said. "There was plenty there to be encouraged about."

Gary Whetton, the New Zealand captain, said: "It wasn't a World-Cup winning performance, but it was a stepping stone."

Diary, page 16
 Cup news, page 36
 Match report, page 38
 David Miller, page 38
 Simon Barnes, page 38



Decisive score: Michael Jones, the New Zealand flanker, evades Chris Oti to score the only try in the All Blacks' win over England yesterday

KGB forecasts fascist coup in Soviet Union

From BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW AND RICHARD FORD IN LONDON

THE Soviet Union is ripe for a fascist coup with continued social discontent and the weakening of central control over the armed forces and the nuclear arsenal, according to a leaked report by a team of KGB analysts.

They point to the need for urgent reforms to improve social conditions, saying that the country is rapidly following the path of disintegration taken by Yugoslavia, "repeating almost step by step the events that took place there 12 or 18 months ago".

The report emerged as the European Community agreed substantial emergency humanitarian assistance for the

Soviet Union. John Major, who negotiated the aid effort with the Dutch prime minister, Ruud Lubbers, and the European Commission president Jacques Delors, declined to give details, but the package is understood to total about £1.5 billion.

Mr Major said the proposal would be put to EC foreign ministers on Monday. He would then approach America, Japan and Canada to ask them for a contribution to ensure that the Soviet people had ample food for the winter. That is expected to take the total package to about £3 billion, but Mr Major made clear that Moscow would have to give precise details of what was required before the aid

could be sent. President Gorbachev, who is fighting to create a new loose Soviet union while grappling with the country's economic problems, has scaled down his request for EC help from about £8.5 billion to £6 billion, but given no breakdown of the aid needed.

The extent of the difficulties he faces became even more apparent yesterday when the liberal newspaper *Nesavisimaya Gazeta* published chunks of a KGB report intended for a parliamentary committee on reforming the state security system. The document said that central control over the army was weakening and that the social conditions were being created where fascism could easily take root.

Many bureaucrats who supported the August putsch were still in positions of power, and political leaders were not being fully informed by the military. "A situation is being created in the armed forces that is no less dangerous than the one before the putsch," it said. "There are indications of a weakening of control over the nuclear arsenal. Many military installations, including strategic ones, are not fully staffed."

The report went on to say that liberal groups remained weak, adding: "There is alarming evidence of the creation of the social conditions for emergence and fast development of movements or political forces of a populist or even fascist hue."

The very leaking of the KGB report provided further evidence of the extent to which central institutions in the Soviet Union are crumbling, and that disintegration may lead to much of the EC aid being channelled directly to the republics.

Papa Doc torturer meets a grisly end

The military junta in Port-au-Prince tries to lay to rest the ghosts of the Tonton Macoute, Martin Fletcher reports

Loosely wrapped in bloodstained blue prison pyjamas, Roger Lafontant, former head of "Papa Doc" Duvalier's infamous Tontons Macoute, lay in the morgue of the only public hospital in Haiti's capital, flies crawling over a wound in his right wrist and small nail holes in his abdomen. Attendants pulled back the garment so that a handful of Haitian press photographers could get better pictures of wounds that killed the man who once terrified this nation.

Lafontant was shot by a soldier in the early hours of Monday's coup at the jail where he has been incarcerated since returning from exile and being barred from running for president late last year.

The military junta which overthrew President Aristide on Monday, let the Haitian press and the handful of foreign correspondents now in Port-au-Prince see his corpse as a propaganda ploy to demonstrate that the Tontons Macoute would not be coming back.

We were not permitted to see the corpses of the many civilians filling the morgue. Continued on page 22, col 5

Haiti sanctions, page 12
 Leading article, page 17

Labour promises to stop hospitals from opting out

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE future of the trust hospitals opted out from local health authority control is likely to become a centrepiece of election campaigning between now and the spring. The trusts are encountering financial difficulties that are likely to cause ward closures.

At the Labour conference yesterday, Neil Kinnock's party workers found their marching song. Speaker after speaker in the health debate insisted that a vote for the Tories would be a vote for the break-up of the health service while a vote for Labour would be a vote for its restoration.

As it became clear that this was becoming a theme to galvanise a Labour party otherwise short of distinctive campaigning themes shadow health spokesman Robin Cook promised that a Labour government would on its very first day stop any more hospitals opting out. It would immediately begin winding back those that had chosen trust status.

One reason why some ministers favoured a November election was their fear of financial difficulties dogging the trust hospitals this winter. Those trust hospitals are now likely to be at the centre of the political battle over the next six months. The Labour candidate at the forthcoming Kinnock and Decide bye-election yesterday pledged to make the campaign a referendum on the opting out of a local hospital, the same tactics that helped Labour win at Monmouth this year.

A Times survey published

today will fuel Labour's campaign. It demonstrates that many of the trust hospitals that form the centrepiece of the government's health service reforms are facing acute problems. It found that one in three of the self-governing trusts is already overspent and that several are predicting they will have to turn away patients if they cannot negotiate extra funds.

Many are freezing posts, cutting staff and asking clinical departments to draw up savings plans. Some are planning to close wards to cut costs. Directly funded hospitals are doing even worse.

In yesterday's health debate at the Labour conference, Mr Cook promised that Labour would seek to correct the underfunding of the NHS over the lifetime of a parliament. He argues that some £6 billion is required to do this but Continued on page 22, col 4

Labour conference, page 7
 Peter Riddell, page 16
 Leading article, page 17

'Regret' by DPP as he resigns

By QUENTIN COWDREY AND STEWART TENDLER

SIR Allan Green, Director of Public Prosecutions, resigned yesterday after being reported by police for kerb-crawling in a London red light district.

Police are expected to reveal today whether they will press charges against Sir Allan, whose announcement dented the Whitehall and the legal establishment. His resignation, tendered to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, yesterday morning was accepted immediately.

Last night, intensive efforts were under way to find a permanent replacement for Sir Allan, a barrister who was appointed DPP and head of the Crown Prosecution Service in October 1987.

Among those tipped for the office is Barbara Mills, QC, head of the Serious Fraud Office. David Gandy, aged 59, deputy DPP, was appointed director as a temporary measure.

In a brief statement, Sir Allan said that he "bitterly regretted" what had happened. Interview requests were refused.

Sir Patrick said: "In resigning immediately he has behaved in a most honourable way." Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said: "I think it is a personal tragedy and he has done the right thing."

Sir Allan, aged 56, who is married with two children, was stopped by police at 10.50pm on Wednesday after he had allegedly been seen talking to a prostitute near King's Cross railway station. Police sources are not giving credence to reports that he had been observed acting suspiciously to the area on at least one previous night. Sir Allan had driven to King's Cross alone after attending a reception at the Grosvenor Club in Soho to celebrate the launch of a crime novel.

Police say he parked his car, crossed the road and began speaking to a prostitute standing on the pavement. Minutes later he was approached by a policeman who took his name and address. Many people reported for kerb-crawling an offence under the 1985 Sexual Offences Act designed to reduce the problem of men pestering women mistaken for prostitutes, escape with a written warning or a caution.

Background, analysis, page 3
 When men fall, page 14

Presidency 'seizes power' in Belgrade

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER AND DESSA TREVISAN

WARFARE of a ferocity not seen in Europe for decades escalated further yesterday as federal Yugoslav forces re-imposed their naval blockade on seven Croatian ports and served warning that the fighting could spread to the centre of the breakaway republic.

Yugoslavia's collective federal presidency decided to take over some powers of the federal parliament because of the threat of "imminent war", Branko Kostic, the vice-president, said in Belgrade. Fighting was reported at several places along a ragged front stretching from Dubrovnik in the south to Vukovar in eastern Croatia, the scene of a big battle for control of besieged barracks.

In Rome on a trip to whip up international support, the



Croatian president, Franjo Tudjman, said his republic would fight to the end. Both sides, meanwhile, continued to beef up their forces and accuse each other of breaking the ceasefire of September 22. Western sources said that the deteriorating situation gave Continued on page 22, col 2

Harsh bombardment, page 8

GEC asked to explain

THE Stock Exchange and the Takeover Panel put GEC under severe pressure yesterday to explain its intentions towards British Aerospace, after reports that it was preparing a bid for the company (writes Ross Tieman).

Both companies were contacted by the Stock Exchange after fears that the speculation was causing abnormal swings in BAE shares. GEC said last night, however: "There is no

statement." Sir Graham Day, the chairman of the BAE, pledged to "resist vigorously any attempts which prove not to be in the interests of shareholders, customers and employees to divert it from its own plans to reorganise its business."

BAE/GEC panel, page 2
 GEC sharpens teeth, page 16
 Day cooed, page 23
 Comment, page 25

Video game 'victim' goes for the jackpot

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AMONG America's biggest preoccupations this year have been the children's video game Nintendo, and an increasingly common set of afflictions called repetitive stress disorders. It was probably inevitable that the two would collide and, this being America, that the collision would end in court.

The inevitable has now happened, with a teenage girl suing the video game giant, and the toy shop which sold her the game, for more than \$10,000 (£5,300) for causing her "Nintendo wrist". Nicole LaBruzzi, aged 17, from Utica, Michigan, claims she began suffering numbness and tingling in her fingers after playing Nintendo for more than two hours a day between August 1988 and 1989. Although the problem abated when she stopped using the game, she

says the symptoms return when she tries to type or carry shopping bags. Her lawyer argues that Nintendo games should carry a public health warning.

"Nintendo wrist" is just the latest in a catalogue of what have been described as "cumulative trauma disorders" caused by repeated small strains. Everyone from secretaries using word processors to waiters forced to make too many cups of coffee claim to have fallen victim to the new evil.

The specific strains of manipulating the Nintendo joystick to manoeuvre characters on the video screen were first identified last year by a Wisconsin doctor who named the condition "nintenditis". Dr Richard Brasington, a rheumatologist from Wisconsin, wrote to *The New England Journal of Medicine* describing how a 35-year-old woman entranced by her first encounter with the

video game suffered sore thumbs after playing non-stop for five hours. Earlier this year, a professional basketball star, Lionel Simmons of the Sacramento Kings, was forced to sit out two games because his wrist had become so inflamed from a day-long Nintendo binge that he could not grip the ball or shoot.

Miss LaBruzzi says she suffers from carpal tunnel syndrome, in which the nerves passing from the thumb and the first two fingers through the carpal tunnel—a sheath of tissue in the wrist—become pinched. Barry Seifman, her lawyer, says she suffers from the condition in both hands.

LaBruzzi says Miss LaBruzzi's claim is the first time it has been targeted in a lawsuit. Refusing to comment, the company "simply counselled 'moderation'—good things."



CATHERINE COOKSON

HER MAGNIFICENT NEW NOVELS

Out now in hardcover from Bantam Press

Out now in paperback from Corgi

Available at WHSMITH

THE Rag Nymph

THE Gillyvors

EC challenges milk board monopoly

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN may be taken to court by the European Commission for allegedly allowing the Milk Marketing Board to abuse its monopoly powers. The move is seen as the most serious challenge to the dairy industry cartel organisation in its 58-year-old history.

The board has the exclusive right to buy raw milk at a uniform pooled price from the 30,000 dairy farmers in England and Wales and to sell it to dairy processors. After Britain joined the European Community in 1973, this monopoly power was enshrined in community legislation.

The dispute turns on the definition of raw milk. The commission argues that semi-skimmed or low fat milk is a processed product and falls outside the powers of the board. Farmers who separate the fat themselves or have a commercial interest in a dairy that does so are under no obligation to sell to the board, it says.

If this argument were up-

held, the board's powers would be fatally weakened. Low fat milk accounts for 40 per cent of the market in Britain. Farmers could strike deals with dairies offering a better price than the board's.

A few dairy farmers have already struck "contract processing" agreements with dairies and it was the board's attempt to halt such deals earlier this year that prompted the Brussels investigation.

The commission has sent the agriculture ministry a "reasoned opinion" setting out its views. This is the first step in legal proceedings. John Gummer, agriculture minister, has three weeks to decide how to respond. If he rejects the opinion, he could find he is brought before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. If he accepts the opinion, he would in effect be signing the board's death warrant. Mr Gummer is was yesterday said to be taking legal advice.

In a statement yesterday

from its headquarters at Thames Ditton, Surrey, the board said: "Our view remains that low fat milk falls within the scope of the marketing scheme. This is a very important issue. If the Brussels position is upheld the whole scheme would be undermined." The board insists on its right to impose levies on farmers who sell milk outside the system.

John Price, director-general of the Dairy Trade Federation, which represents the 300 dairies and processors which buy milk from the board, said: "The whole scheme would collapse into chaos if Brussels had its way. You cannot have a situation where some milk is in the scheme and some milk is outside it. If the scheme is going to be scrapped, then it must be done in an orderly way."

Mr Gummer has encouraged the board to become more market oriented but has stopped short of saying it should be scrapped.



Back in hot seat: Jack Mann, with his wife Sumie, gives the thumbs-up from a Spitfire yesterday at RAF Lyneham

Jack Mann relives his fighter ace past

THE Battle of Britain ace Jack Mann sat in a Spitfire yesterday for the first time in 45 years and asked to be allowed to fly it. The 77-year-old former Beirut hostage scrambled into the cockpit of a Mark V Spitfire from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight at RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire, and

demanded to know where the gun sight had gone. Mr Mann shot down six German ME 109s at the controls of Spitfires during 1940.

He said: "It's wonderful to sit in one of these again. When I came here from Beirut and saw the Spitfire coming over and doing a victory roll, I was

overwhelmed. I never expected to see one again, never mind sit in it. I wish I could fly it." Group Captain Clifford Spink, who flew the plane from RAF Coningsby in Lincolnshire, politely told Mr Mann it was not possible.

Mrs Mann said: "It has given him a tremendous lift to

be in a Spitfire again. I can't think of anything that would have given him more pleasure than today."

The Manns will remain at Lyneham for some time while further medical checks are carried out. They will eventually fly to Cyprus to set up home there.

RUC claims rejected

The RUC chief constable Hugh Annesley last night denounced a television programme that accused some of his men of involvement in Loyalist paramilitary killings. He said allegations by Channel 4's *Dispatches* were "an unjust and unsubstantiated slur" on the force and an insult to officers and soldiers fighting terrorism.

It was claimed on Wednesday's programme that members of an RUC "inner circle" helped Protestant gunmen to kill at least seven people.

Police investigating the deaths of two people in Wiltshire believe a man shot his mother before killing himself. Police believe David Abrams, aged 21, shot his mother, Valerie, and the family dog with a shotgun at the family home in Melksham before driving to a beauty spot on the A3102 and shooting himself in the head.

Karpov beaten

Anatoly Karpov, the former world champion, lost his first game in the eighth round of the World Cup chess tournament at Reykjavik yesterday. His loss came in 51 moves against Ljubovjevic of Yugoslavia.

CORRECTIONS

Sign, the charity for deaf young people, has just embarked on an appeal for money to convert a redundant church in Balham, south London, into flats as part of a campaign to help sufferers to become independent. A report from the Press Association yesterday incorrectly stated that the project had been concluded.

The Times diary yesterday said that Nicholas Phillips committed suicide earlier this year. In fact, the inquest returned a verdict of accidental death. We apologise for the error.

GEC/BAe merger prospects

Giants are natural partners

ANY merging of the key commercial interests of GEC and British Aerospace, the two giants in the defence industry, is likely to be viewed by the government as a natural, if not inevitable, development. The two companies already have a share in many of the biggest defence contracts and it is in the interests of both that British Aerospace remains viable.

Lord Weistock, GEC managing director, clearly has in mind a similar rescue attempt to the one he carried out in February last year when Ferranti was in trouble. While not wishing to mount a straightforward takeover bid for the whole company, he opted for Ferranti Defence Systems because of the benefits GEC would derive from the company's specialist expertise.

As one defence industry source said: "Lord Weistock is not going to be indifferent to a troubled British Aerospace. There is tremendous experience invested in British Aerospace and the company's capabilities are a national asset. So GEC will want to be involved in some form of co-

ordinated or individual rescue action."

Both GEC and British Aerospace are involved in two of the most prestigious defence contracts: the so-called Al Yamamah deal with Saudi Arabia to sell 72 Tornados, 30 Hawks and 30 PC9 trainers; and the European Fighter Aircraft (EFA), the four-nation collaborative programme.

British Aerospace, prime contractor for the Saudi deal, has completed most of the aircraft contract with just 20 more Tornados to be delivered. GEC provides some of the electronics and its Foxhunter radar for the Tornados. The official value of the contract is £5 billion but since it was first signed, the figure has more than doubled. For EFA, British Aerospace

has a 30 per cent share in the development programme and is responsible for designing the front fuselage and part of the wings.

But the £300 million radar contract for EFA, which could eventually be worth £2 billion, was won by a consortium led by GEC Ferranti Defence Systems.

There are numerous other defence deals where GEC and British Aerospace are partners. Yarrow Shipbuilders, a GEC subsidiary, is building most of the Royal Navy's current batch of Type 23 frigates. But the crucial weapon, the vertical-launch Sea Wolf anti-aircraft and anti-missile system, is built by British Aerospace, with GEC Marconi providing the fire control and target tracking equipment.

British Aerospace Dynamics, responsible for weapon systems, has a £1 billion contract to build Raptor 2000 anti-aircraft systems for the defence ministry. GEC Marconi provides the track radar.

Philip Bassett, page 16
Business news, page 23

MAIN BRITISH-BASED GEC SUBSIDIARIES

Company	Location	Workforce	Products	Ownership %
GEC Ferranti	Edinburgh	6,000	Radar systems	100
GEC Avionics	Rochester	5,000	Electronic light control systems	100
GEC Plessey Avionics	Havant	5,000		100
Marconi Underwater Systems	Portsmouth	na	Torpedos, sonar systems	100
Marconi Space Systems Ltd	Portsmouth	1,100	Satellite/space equipment	100
Marconi Defence Sys	Portsmouth	2,000	Secure radio/speech synthesizers	100
Hotpoint UK Ltd	Peterborough	na	Domestic appliances	na
Creda Ltd	Stoke	2,687	Domestic appliances	na
Xpelair Ltd	Widrow	594		na
Yarrow Shipbuilders Ltd	Glasgow	2,950	Ships	100
Marconi Instruments Ltd	St Albans	2,689	Computer aided design equipment	100
GPT Ltd	Liverpool	na	Public telephone exchange	50
GEC Alsthon	Coverly	na	Transmission syst	100
	Nottingham	na	Business systems	
	Manchester	550	Condensers, thermal and nuclear power plants	100
	Rugby	5,500	Turbines/generators gears and valves	100
	Stafford			
	Bradford			
	Manchester			
	Lincoln	4,200	Gas turbines and diesels	100
	Leicester			
	Colchester			
	Newton-le-Willows			
	Manchester	4,900	Power transmission systems	100
	Stafford			
	Rugby	3,300	Electrical equipment	100
	Bradford			
	Preston			
	Liverpool			
	Manchester	3,350	Electric and diesel locomotive/light rail systems	100
	Birmingham			
	Borehamwood			
	Lichfield	230	Robotics	100
	Manchester			
	Slough			

BRITISH AEROSPACE: MAIN COMPANIES AND ACTIVITIES

British Aerospace is Britain's largest exporter of manufactured goods. Over 60 per cent of its output is sent to 150 countries. Its 129,000 employees produce a wide range of civil and military aircraft, motor vehicles, and space communications as well as property services. It's main companies and activities are:				
Company	Factories	Staff	Products	Ownership
British Aerospace (Commercial Aircraft) Ltd	Chester Chadderton Filton Hatfield Prestwick Woodford	4,700 3,100 4,900 4,600 3,100 2,900	Airbus wings, BAe 146, Jetstream, ATP, BAe 125, BAe C29	Wholly-owned
British Aerospace (Military Aircraft) Ltd	Brough Dunstable Kingston-on-Thames Preston Samlesbury Warton	4,800 914 3,500 4,620 3,200 8,650	European Fighter Aircraft Harrier, Hawk, Goshawk, Tornado, depth charges, sonar, mines, AWACS mission equipment	Wholly-owned
British Aerospace (Dynamics) Ltd	Filton Lestock Stevenage/ Henlow	2,600 2,400 5,300	Sky flash, Milan, Rapier, Sea Dart, Sea Eagle, Sea Skua, Seawolf, etc.	Wholly-owned
British Aerospace Space Systems Ltd	Filton Stevenage	1,200	Civilian and military satellites	Wholly-owned
Rover Group Ltd	Barpoed Birmingham Coventry Gaydon Oxford Saffron Swindon	100 17,600 2,800 800 6,000 8,900 3,000	Rover, Metro, Mini, 80 per cent Sterling, Montego, BAe owned Maestro, Land Rover	80 per cent BAe owned
Royal Ordnance PLC	Birley Bishopcotton Blackburn Bridgwater Charley Glascoed Nottingham Radway Green Summerfield Westcott Wolverhampton	32 2,475 44 675 878 900 135 584 676 100	Explosives and demolition charges, ammunition of all types, fuzes, mortars, warheads rocket motors, guns, rifles, mine clearance equipment	Wholly-owned
Aerostructures Hamble, Ltd.	Hamble	1,850	Aircraft equipment, windcreens, canopies	Wholly-owned
Arlington Securities PLC	London	280	Property development business and industrial parks, marinas	Wholly-owned
Ballast-Nedam Construction Ltd	Bromley	275	General building and civil engineering work	Wholly-owned
Bishopsgate Systems Ltd	Guildford	72	Design manufacture of data link communications	Wholly-owned
British Aerospace Communications Ltd	Stevenage	180	Business tv networks	Wholly-owned
British Aerospace Warrington (Consultancy Services) Ltd	Warrington	100	Project management for civil engineering	Wholly-owned
British Aerospace Prestwick Flying College Ltd	Prestwick	140	Commercial airline pilot training	Wholly-owned
British Aerospace Enterprises Ltd	Farnborough	8	Management of BAe's investment in subsidiaries	Wholly-owned
Liverpool Airport PLC	Liverpool	N/A	Local airport	76 per cent BAe owned
British Aerospace Farnborough Simulation Ltd	Farnborough	128	Civil and military simulators	Wholly-owned
British Aerospace Plymouth (Systems and Equipment) Ltd	Plymouth	1,500	Electronic aircraft equipment	Wholly-owned
Brooklands Estates Ltd	Weybridge	N/A	Formed with Trafalgar House to redevelop Brooklands motor racing circuit	50 per cent BAe owned
Nanoquest Defence Products Ltd	York	28	Lasers and optical instruments for military	Wholly-owned
National Remote Sensing Centre Ltd	Farnborough	50	Supplying and processing remote data from satellites	Wholly-owned
SD-Soicon Fleet	Fleet	N/A	Data processing systems for military and civilian work	24 per cent BAe owned
Sowerby Research Centre	Filton	180	Long term research	Wholly-owned
Spectrum Technologies Ltd	Hayes	9	System for marking electric cables	Wholly-owned
Wind Energy Group Ltd	Hayes	N/A	Design and development of wind-driven electricity generators	50 per cent BAe owned

British Aerospace also has subsidiaries in Egypt, Singapore, USA, Holland, Australia, Canada, Sweden, Germany and France. It is also involved in a large number of international co-operative projects ranging from space systems to training simulation.

HALFORDS

PREMIUM SERVICE

FROM ONLY

£66.40*

PRICES VARY ACCORDING TO MAKE OF CAR. ASK FOR DETAILS.

INCLUDING

EXHAUST EMISSION CHECK

THE NEW EXHAUST EMISSION TEST IN THE MOT
This new test becomes part of your MOT on November 1st - but it's already included on your Halfords Premium Service. And if there's a minor adjustment we'll put it right as part of the service.

LOOK AT EVERYTHING YOUR FULL SERVICE INCLUDES



Full Crypton Engine Tune

- New air and oil filter • Change engine oil—Castrol GTX
- New spark plugs and contact set • Steering, suspension, tyre, cooling system, exhaust checks • Brake and clutch check and adjust • Brake and clutch fluid top-up
- Transmission check and top-up • Electric function check
- Wheel bearing check and adjust • Car vacuum clean, washer top-up and windscreen cleaned.

All work carried out by fully trained Halfords technicians.

AA Approved Service Centre

* SOME LUXURY CARS NOT INCLUDED.

OPEN SUNDAYS

KEEPING THE COST OF CAR SERVICING DOWN

Thank **HALFORDS** for that

HALFORDS VOUCHERS: SUNDAY OPENING IN ALL SUPERSTORES AND MOST HIGH STREET SHOPS. CYCLES SOLD ON SUNDAY IN SCOTLAND ONLY. OPENING TIMES MAY VARY. (CHECK LOCAL TIMETABLES FOR DETAILS). ALL CROSSED PRICES ARE HALFORDS NORMAL PRICES. ALL PRICES INCLUDE VAT AND ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. ALL OFFERS AND SERVICES ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. HALFORDS LIMITED, 100-102 STURGEON, WASHINGTON, WIDEN, WILTSHIRE BA9 9DL.

'One cannot understand how he should throw it all away in what seems to be such a remarkably careless way'

Green's fall from grace shocks legal profession

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE fall from grace of Sir Allan Green, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, has cast a deep shadow over the career of a man widely regarded as having saved the Crown Prosecution Service — one of the most important developments in criminal justice since the war — from dying in its infancy.

The legal profession was shattered yesterday by his swift resignation after being stopped by police for allegedly soliciting a prostitute.

"It is a body blow," Anthony Scrivenor, QC, chairman of the Bar, said. "He was an outstanding director of public prosecutions. The public has lost a great protector."

Mr. Scrivenor also praised Sir Allan's fairness as a prosecutor. "He was in the best traditions of the Bar; he never pressed for a conviction and he brought the ethics of the Bar to the job."

Sir Allan's resignation comes four years and three days after he was appointed DPP after a successful career in the Bar, most recently as senior prosecuting counsel at the Central Criminal Court.

His pleasant personality, which exudes sobriety, courtesy and — ironically — a high moral tone, made the

manner of his departure all the more of a shock to those who knew him. One High Court judge said he was shattered. "He is the very last person I would have expected this of."

Sir Allan's staff at Queen Anne's Gate, whom he told yesterday morning, were dumbfounded. "It was a great shock," one senior member said. "We are all very sad indeed. He is extremely popular and widely liked. The job is a great strain, although I know of no particular difficulties in a narrow sense, although his father, to whom he was close, died, a few months ago."

Michael Hill, QC, senior prosecuting counsel and a former colleague and close friend of Sir Allan, said: "He is one of the nicest men I know and he was a remarkably good director of public prosecutions. I feel very deeply for him."

Michael Mansfield, QC, a leading defence barrister who represented five of the Birmingham Six, said: "He has endeavoured to apply some fairly strong principles. He has not always succeeded but that may not be his fault."



Sir Allan and his wife, Eva, whom he married in 1967, and their children Robin and Susie, after he received his New Year honours knighthood

Recession boosts street soliciting

THE recession is forcing young women into prostitution, with evidence emerging that more are taking to the streets of London to help to make ends meet.

The English Collective of Prostitutes, a pressure group based in the King's Cross area of London, says more women have been coming to it for help. It is concerned about an increase in the numbers operating from street corners in the traditional red light areas, rather than from flats, particularly since the brutal attacks on prostitutes in recent weeks.

The collective said: "There are an increasing number of girls on the street due to several factors, mainly the effects of the recession. There have been no real increases in child and housing benefits this year and 70 per cent of working girls are single parents. There is also an increase because of unemployment among men, which is leading their partners to go on the streets to help, and there is the longstanding problem of young people in London being ineligible for benefits."

The collective says that a change in the law to allow prostitutes to advertise openly would remove women from the streets and make the business safer.

The police said that there had been an increase in the number of prostitutes

operating recently. A spokesman said one reason could be that women had returned to the streets after an absence because of warnings from the police about attacks.

A further factor which is believed to be leading to more women operating from the streets rather than from flats is the effort by British Telecom and the London boroughs to reduce the number of advertising stickers and cards left plastered over telephone boxes.

Defacing telephone boxes was an offence until 1984, when British Telecom was privatised. The fourth London Local Authorities Bill, which will make it a criminal offence, but it will cover stickers only.

BT spends thousands of pounds removing up to 11,000 stickers and cards each week from its 3,500 phone boxes in London. Police say that the courts have recently taken a tougher stance against the card distributors, who are paid about £30 for every 200 distributed.

Politician and sports stars disgraced by charges

By BILL FROST

NOT since 1976 has suspicion of kerb-crawling humbled a prominent government-appointed figure. In that year, Lord Wigg, a former security adviser to the Wilson government, was brought before magistrates to answer charges of insulting behaviour after accosting half a dozen women in the West End of London.

The late Lord Wigg, then aged 76, said he was "struck dumb" by the allegations. A police sergeant told the court he saw the Labour peer approach half a dozen women who rejected his advances. The officer said that Lord Wigg had been stopped and questioned about kerb-crawling on a previous occasion. No action had been taken in "the interests of national security".

Tahdold newspapers had a field day. Lord Wigg was acquitted but he was ruined.

Kerb-crawling has also lured a number of sporting personalities to ritual public humiliation. Four years ago David Plead, the manager of Tottenham Hotspur, resigned his £90,000-a-year job after being "unmasked" in a mass circulation Sunday newspaper. Plead, the paper revealed, had been cautioned three times for kerb-crawling. Two years ago John Dreyer, a defender with Luton Town, was suspended after admitting kerb-crawling.

Dr Brian Thomas-Peter, head of psychology at Reaside clinic, a secure unit in the West Midlands, said that judges, politicians and councillors caught consorting with prostitutes were indulging in a form of escapism. The greater the risk, the more attractive the activity seemed, he said. "What these people are doing is escaping from tension and stress."

Prostitution is not a crime but kerb-crawling was made an offence under the 1985 Sexual Offences Act to prevent associated offences, particularly motorists driving slowly round red light districts calling out or signalling to women. The maximum penalty is £400, due to rise to £1,000 next October.



Night work: prostitutes wait for clients in Paddington. Many of the women in London are single parents

Woman is tipped as possible successor

BARBARA Mills, QC, director of the Serious Fraud Office, was being tipped last night as a possible candidate to succeed Sir Allan Green as Director of Public Prosecutions (Frances Gibb writes).

Mrs Mills, a senior Treasury counsel with Sir Allan in the 1980s and head of the fraud office since last autumn, would, if appointed, be the first woman to hold the post.

The other names being put forward in legal circles were Graham Boal, senior Treasury counsel and acting chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, and John Nutting, also senior Treas-

ury counsel. Pending the appointment to the £77,000-a-year job, likely within two to three weeks, David Gandy, deputy director of the service, will act as director.

However, there is no need for the appointment, which is made by the Attorney-General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, to come from the practising Bar. Such previous DPPs as Sir Thomas Hetherington, QC, and Sir Theobald Mathew came from Whitehall.

Mr Nutting, the youngest contender, is the son of Sir Anthony Nutting, who resigned as junior Foreign Office minister over Suez.

Killed soldiers' families say US broke promise

By PETER VICTOR

THE families of nine servicemen killed by a "friendly fire" from two American planes during the Gulf war have accused US officials of breaking a promise from President Bush to provide them with information.

During a 16-day tour as guests of the Americans, the soldiers' families were assured by the president that they would receive details of the Pentagon's enquiry into the tragedy.

The nine soldiers were killed during an attack on February 27 when they were hit by fire from two American A10 tankbuster aircraft. A Ministry of Defence report into the incident, which apportioned no blame to British troops, failed to placate the families.

The president's promise to provide the families with the report of the US enquiry, thought to contain the statements of the two A10 pilots, was expected to embarrass the Ministry of Defence. A copy was sent to the ministry, which has refused to release its full report or details of the US document. It now refuses to comment on the matter.

During the visit, Mr Bush was widely reported to have said: "I can assure you as commander-in-chief that the documents will be with you before you leave America or faxed to you on your return." Vice-president Dan Quayle, however, was reported to have said: "The British government classified the report, not us. If they won't give it to you it's up to them."

He seemed to get a bit annoyed and said, 'Do you want the facts? When I said yes, he replied, 'You'll get them.' He said he would give it to the British ambassador."

Mel Gillespie, whose son Richard died in the attack, said that the president had told them the report was freely available. "Somebody out there is making sure we don't find out what happened. Something is not right."

Yesterday, both the Pentagon and the White House refused to say whether the families would get the report. The Pentagon insisted that the document was classified.

A presidential press aide said: "There some question about whether the president promised any particular report. He promised he would look into it and send what he got to the British ambassador in Washington."



Epic service: Omar Sharif, left, and Peter O'Toole leaving St Paul's Cathedral yesterday after attending, with many other personalities of the cinema world, the memorial service to Sir David Lean, director of many epic British films, who died in April aged 83. The service lasted more than 90 minutes with readings from actors who had appeared in his films, including Sir John Mills, Mr O'Toole, Mr Sharif and Tom Courtenay. The

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and chorus played music from *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Dr Zhivago*, *Ryan's Daughter* and *Passage to India*. In the congregation were many of Sir David's family, led by his widow, Sandra, and friends and colleagues from every part of the film industry. Anne Todd, aged 82, his former wife, was also present.

Memorial service, page 18

Tunnel's prefab station ridiculed

By MICHAEL DYMES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to build a temporary passenger station for Channel tunnel rail services out of prefabricated huts at Ashford in Kent were greeted with dismay yesterday by Tony Hart, the leader of Kent county council.

Details of the hut scheme will be unveiled by Richard Hope, an independent rail consultant and former editor of *Railway Gazette*, at an Ashford hotel today. Mr Hope has drawn up the hut scheme on behalf of Eurotunnel, the Channel tunnel operator.

The proposal is designed to provide Kent with temporary international arrival and departure facilities until British Rail's plans to build a £140 million station are completed. Work should have begun in March for the station to open in time for the opening of the tunnel in June 1993. However, the government has yet to approve the BR project.

Mr Hart said that the huts plan was a shambles. "What will people arriving in Britain

think when they are greeted by an international station made out of prefabricated huts? We'll be the laughing stock of Europe. The government must make up its mind and announce the final section of the route for the Channel tunnel link, and approve the new station for Ashford."

Transport officials said that Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, has been briefed about Eurotunnel's proposals, although no decision has been taken. "Eurotunnel will have to discuss their suggestion with British Rail to establish whether it is operationally feasible," a spokesman said.

SNCF, the French national railway, is building a £23 million station at Prethun and a £197 million station at Lille to cater for Channel tunnel rail services.

BR declined to comment on Eurotunnel's prefabricated hut proposals until the details of the scheme have been made public.

Injuries to baby 'like road accident'

A CONSULTANT paediatrician who examined a baby girl on Christmas Day found bleeding in the brain and two fractured ribs, a jury was told yesterday. "Baby Y", who was less than seven weeks old, also had bruises on her face and chest. Dr Suzanne Hart said at the Central Criminal Court. The force needed to fracture her ribs would have been the equivalent of a road accident, she said. The baby's parents, Robert Rouse, aged 22, and Lyndsay Morris, aged 19, of Thornton Heath, Surrey, deny cruelty to Baby Y and deny murdering her sister Sadie, aged six weeks, by smashing her head against a wall.

Mr John Nutting, for the prosecution, said that the couple told doctors that they might have accidentally hurt the baby by holding her too hard when they tried to give her gripe water.

ITN man moves to US cable network

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRENT SADLER, ITN's award-winning Middle East correspondent, has moved to the 24-hour Cable News Network, accusing his former employer of failing to promote senior reporters in the way the BBC has made "stars" of Kate Adle and John Simpson.

Mr Sadler, whose three-year CNN contract is estimated to be worth £100,000 a year, said that ITN had concentrated too much on promoting its newsreaders, rather than the correspondents dodging bullets in the field who better captured public imagination. "It is a waste of resources in a fiercely competitive world of TV news to capitalise on their profiles in the way the BBC does," Mr Sadler said.

The 40-year-old reporter also said that ITN's financial problems had influenced his decision. "There are far fewer opportunities to move around and do the type of stories I want to do when the pennies are being counted," he said.

"ITN just cannot match CNN in terms of news firepower. It has 27 bureaux; ITN has just five. It broadcasts to 127 countries worldwide, and as a result more doors will be open to me."

An ITN spokesman said it was difficult for British television to match American salaries. However, he added: "ITN is one of the top six news organisations in the world; it is untrue that we are not big enough to fulfil his ambitions. He was seen so often on CNN because ITN was able to provide CNN with so many reports."

● Selina Scott, who has been earning £4,000 a week from British Sky Broadcasting despite being absent from the screens for six months, is to start presenting Sky News's breakfast show on Monday.

Creature comforts cost pet lovers dear

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

A PET can cost its owner up to £10,000 over its lifetime, according to a survey published today. Undaunted by the recession, pet lovers continue to plough their funds into food, treats, veterinary treatment and insurance, according to *Wild About Animals Magazine*.

Dog owners can expect to spend £9,000 over 12 years, while a cat's 13-year lifespan represents an average bill of £6,000. The cats of Scotland, the North-West and North-East enjoy the highest standards of living, costing almost £10,000 on average.

The survey, based on replies from 1,000 readers around the country, shows

that 91 per cent of owners spend up to £15 a week (over £700 a year) on pet food — an increase on last year's figures. Forty-six per cent of dog and cat owners spend between £10 and £30 annually on veterinary treatment and nearly two-thirds budget a further £100 for toys and other creature comforts.

High as the figures appear, Bill Edmond of the Kennel Club said yesterday that they should be put in perspective. "Many people will spend more on alcohol in the 12 years of a dog's life. Walking a dog is better exercise."

The survey also sheds light on the unconventional lifestyles of some of Britain's pets, including an East

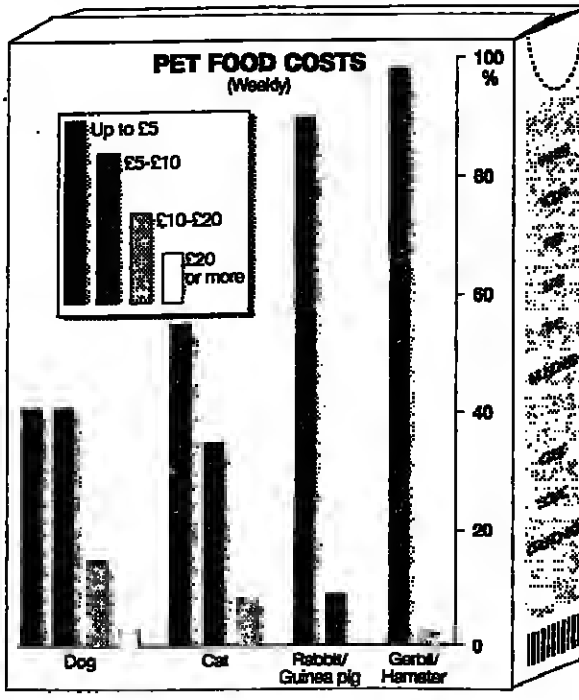
Anglian dog and rabbit who sleep together, a London kitten with a taste for vindaloo curry, and Noddy, an accident-prone budgie who crashed to disaster on a recent exercise flight. His owner, Margaret Dunn of Yeovil, Somerset, said yesterday: "He was flying round the room and fell into one of our narrow vases. We had to pull him out by his legs. The vet said he'd pulled a muscle."

Like most of the respondents, Mrs Dunn expressed concern about cruelty to animals and the punishment of offenders. "I don't think the peacocks are stiff enough. They should be banned from keeping animals," she said. More than

half of pet-owners agreed and a further 35 per cent called for imprisonment. Nearly 80 per cent found zoos unacceptable and 89 per cent thought wild animal acts should be banned from circuses.

Jilly Cooper, the author, was voted a top animal loving personality, piped to the post only by Brigitte Bardot, the former actress turned animal rights campaigner.

Miss Cooper said yesterday: "I think that's the nicest thing that's ever happened to me. But £10,000 per animal sounds very low for our family. We cook chicken for our pets and a dog-sitter is brought in when we go out."



4 HOME NEWS

Killer's psychiatrist guilty of 'serious clinical error'

By PETER DAVENPORT

AN ENQUIRY into the release from hospital of a mental patient who two days later killed a young girl found that the consultant psychiatrist in the case was guilty of a "serious error of clinical judgment", it was disclosed yesterday.

The report of the Trent regional health authority enquiry into the case of Carol Ann Barratt, who on Wednesday was ordered to be detained indefinitely after stabbing to death a girl aged 11, was completed in July. The authority published the findings yesterday in response to a

call for an enquiry by the judge who sentenced the killer.

Barratt, aged 24, was in the psychiatric unit of Doncaster royal infirmary when Dr Neil Silvester allowed her to go free. She was being held there under the Mental Health Act after threatening another girl with a knife and trying to strangle a hospital visitor. Two days after being released, she attacked Emma Brodie, aged 11, at a shopping centre in Doncaster, killing her with a single knife blow.

After sentencing Barratt for manslaughter at Sheffield crown court on Wednesday,

Mr Justice Turner said that the public had "every reason to have considerable anxiety" about the circumstances behind the decision to free her.

Yesterday, the enquiry's recommendations and a summary of its findings were published. It was announced after the court case that Dr Silvester had been told to take "special leave" pending the outcome of an investigation to decide if he should face disciplinary action.

Brian Edwards, Trent Health authority's regional general manager, said that the authority had received the

enquiry team's report only six days before the court case. It had delayed taking action until after the case to avoid prejudicing the proceedings.

The enquiry team expressed "deep concern" that Dr Silvester had agreed to release Barratt from the hospital on April 14 without an assessment of her condition on the day. Barratt, who had a history of psychiatric problems, had been turned down for release by a mental health review tribunal on April 11.

The report said that by April 14, there was evidence that Barratt posed a threat to other people. Referring to Dr Silvester, it added: "The RMO [responsible medical officer] in discharging Carol from her Section paid scant regard to the decision of the Mental Health Act Tribunal who refused to discharge her on the basis that her detention was justified in the interests of her own health and safety and with a view to the protection of others."

"The RMO's decision to terminate her Section thus enabling Carol to discharge herself, and the circumstances in which this decision was made, constituted a serious error of clinical judgment."

These are the key dates supplied by Trent regional health authority, in the chronology of events leading to the killing of Emma Brodie, aged 11, by Carol Ann Barratt, March 30, 1991: Barratt is admitted to psychiatric unit of Doncaster royal infirmary under Section 2 of Mental Health Act after threatening a girl with a knife in the Freuchgate shopping centre. April 4: Barratt absconds, attacks a girl and attempts to strangle a hospital visitor. There are several more es-

capes over the next 10 days in spite of her being under close observation.

April 11: mental health review tribunal rejects Barratt's application to be discharged, saying she is suffering from a mental disorder that means she is a risk to herself and others.

April 14: At 5.30 on the Sunday evening Barratt is visited by her mother, who demands her release from detention. Barratt has to be restrained from leaving the

hospital. Nurses contact Dr Silvester by telephone and he offers Barratt's mother the option of discharging her daughter from her Section 2 in return for a written undertaking that she will take full responsibility for her. Barratt's mother signs a Discharge Against Medical Advice form.

April 16: Barratt returns to the crowded Freuchgate centre where Emma Brodie is shopping with her elder sister. Barratt stabs Emma with a carving knife.



Matched by microchip: a couple who met through Dateline help the agency to celebrate its silver jubilee. Dateline's annual turnover has reached £4 million

Winning date for computer romance

By BILLY KIRK

A DOZEN couples who can thank the microchip for their happiness were brought to London by the world's largest computer dating agency, which today celebrates 25 years of matchmaking.

The Dateline success stories, exchanging the odd affectionate nuzzle, came to the company's headquarters in Kensington earlier this week to tell reporters how happy their partners and the agency had made them.

John Patterson, founder of Dateline, which now has an annual turnover of £4 million, rejects suggestions that his clients are social misadventures. "People have misconceptions about Dateline. This is no temple of despair... Most clients come to us because they have decided to do something constructive about meeting the right partner," he said.

Robert, a quantity surveyor aged 55, described meeting Catherine, aged 49. "It was as though a huge wave had crashed over me and an orchestra had started playing... I knew then, I am in love." The couple were married with a month of their first meeting.

"The company saves £88 every time I fly business class to Dublin? Are you serious?"



British Midland's Diamond Service is based on a very simple principle. Business class travel at economy fares. From our comprehensive schedule - over 900 flights every week into and out of Heathrow's Terminal 1 - to the genuine, unaffected friendliness of our cabin staff, from complimentary meals and drinks to newspapers on

breakfast and dinner flights, everything about flying British Midland Diamond Service says business class. Except the price. Because, on all our major routes, British Midland's unique 3 day Executive Return saves significant amounts of money compared to other airlines' business class fares.

£70 saved to Amsterdam. £88 to Dublin. £105 to Paris. Even when the economy has fully recovered, savings like that will still make sense to the serious business traveller.

Diamond Service
British Midland
THE SERIOUS ALTERNATIVE
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL AGENT OR PHONE 071-589 5569

Breast cancer toll 'can be cut'

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN were yesterday offered hope that the annual toll of 15,000 deaths in Britain from breast cancer will be reduced significantly in the next few years.

Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, Norma Major, the prime minister's wife, and Esther Rantzen the television presenter expressed optimism that screening and research together will cut the toll by almost 10 per cent by the end of the century.

Mrs Bottomley said that by then, the national x-ray screening programme should save 1,250 lives a year. She was speaking at the launch in London of Europe Against Cancer, an event organised by the European Commission.

The programme is open to women aged 50 to 64. So far, 70 per cent of women in that age group are accepting invitations to be screened, but many more must be encouraged to take part, Mrs Bottomley said.

An appeal to raise £15 million to build a research centre next to the Royal Marsden hospital in London dedicated to finding a cure for the disease was launched yesterday. It has been set up by a new charity, Breakthrough Breast Cancer, which has raised almost £1 million and has had pledges of a further £5.4 million from other cancer charities and the Wellcome Foundation.

Surgeons in Liverpool yesterday carried out what they believe is one of the world's first "keyhole" lung cancer operations. A two-inch tumour was removed from a man aged 68 through a much smaller incision than needed during conventional open-chest surgery for the disease. The patient is recovering well.

Viking skeleton found

The ninth-century site of a Viking burial boat has been found on Orkney. Archaeologists say it is in danger of destruction by winter gales unless enough money is raised for a rescue dig, which could cost more than £10,000.

The discovery, announced yesterday, was made on Sunday last week when Julie Gibson, an archaeologist, found part of a human skeleton on the shore and stains in the sand caused by rusting boat rivets. An earlier discovery of a weight for measuring silver bullion suggests the skeleton is that of a wealthy merchant.

Claim settled

A prison officer at Peterhead, Grampian, who sued the Scottish secretary for £80,000 after being held hostage by prisoners for four days in 1986, has settled out of court. The amount of damages has not been announced.

Cleaner sea

The Whitehaven chemical manufacturer Marchion, criticised by Greenpeace over heavy metal discharges into the Irish Sea, says that by next year it will have a £2.6 million process that will reduce the discharges by 90 per cent.

M25 lessons

Essex police say they have been inundated with applications for new classes on how to drive safely on the M25, which last week alone claimed seven lives.

Gascoigne fined

Paul Gascoigne the footballer was fined £85 by Brent magistrates, north London, for driving at up to 69mph on the North Circular road.

No music adds to the love of food

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Good Food Guide, the discriminating eater's vademecum, celebrates its fortieth anniversary today by introducing three new signposts to tranquil gluttony.

The 1992 edition, published today, identifies places that offer healthy eating options, ban piped music, and neither add a service charge nor leave the bottom line of credit slips open in hope of an addition to the total.

Tom Jaine, the guide's editor, said yesterday: "Restaurateurs have been adding separate service charges to bills since the guide began. It is high time the practice was outlawed. The price of a meal should have a price tag on the menu just like a price tag in a shop, with no extras added on later."

Mr Jaine, a former restaurateur, is only the fourth editor of the guide since the classicist and historian Raymond Pngstake launched the pioneering volume in 1951, in revulsion at the standard feasting in post-war Britain. No restaurant has been in every issue of the book,

though Mr Jaine admitted yesterday that the Connaught Hotel in London almost certainly should have been.

"The first edition barely got to grips with London," he admitted yesterday. "The fact that the Connaught was not included was entirely to do with the shoestring resources on which the first guide was produced."

The Connaught has been in every edition since the second, and the next longest-serving restaurants are the Gay Hussar, the Hungarian restaurant in Greek Street, Soho, central London, and the Porth Teyn Hotel, Abersoch, Gwynedd, in North Wales, both of which have appeared in 35 successive editions.

The 1992 edition recommends nearly 1,400 restaurants in Britain, Ireland and the Channel Islands. The four top-rated restaurants for cooking are Chez Nico, Le Gavroche and Tante Claire, all in London, and the Altamare Inn, Ullapool, in Scotland.



Cook: vague on where the cash will come from

Passion for the NHS brings conference alive

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Conservatives should take warning from yesterday's health service debate that Neil Kinnock has pitched his tent on the right battleground for the election campaign.

In a week of sanitised, marketed politics, the speeches from some frontbenchers have sounded more like progress reports from regional directors of Labour plc. The health service brought the conference alive with some genuine feeling. At last you felt that if you cut them, these delegates would bleed.

On many subjects now there is

a hesitancy born of positions adopted from policy documents rather than felt from the gut, a blandness derived from the need for safety-first rhetoric that does not frighten the horses and the uneasy recognition that Labour and Tory positions may not be all that far apart.

But on the health service there was an explosion of moral indignation.

There was anger about what the speakers saw as deteriorating standards of patient service and inequalities of access to medical care. It was not the synthetic rage we used to see from T-shirted sloganeers of the far left and polytechnic lecturers in Slavonic

studies, but genuine indignation from a procession of doctors, nurses and health service managers who trooped to the rostrum to list what was wrong with something they knew at first hand.

It showed in the language. We were back to talk of "destroying" the Tories, back to complaints of a government "ripping the guts" out of the national health service. Above all, there was the feeling, constantly articulated, that this was "our" service that was being turned into something that the delegates did not want it to become.

The sense of identification in the Labour movement with the

COMMENTARY

national health service should not be underestimated. There was no doubt that these people saw it as their proudest creation. And there was no doubt either of their conviction that the country outside the conference hall shared their basic instincts about the service.

It may be alarming to some that there was not a word uttered to suggest that better organisation of what is there might serve more patients, that increasing resources is not the only solution to health service problems.

Spokesman Robin Cook re-

mains vague on where a Labour government would get the money to correct what he says is a £6 billion underfunding. But Conservative business managers must be worried to find that, despite the assumption of the Tory leadership by a man who actually uses the national health service, these people believe that the government intends to "privatise" it.

There are, of course, those within the medical profession who see merit in the government's health service reforms. But the NHS is Europe's largest employer, with more than a million workers, and the potential for the mobilisation of a large proportion

of that workforce on one side in the election debate is obvious while feelings about the service run so high. Almost as the debate went on you could see the recognition dawning in the audience of the strength of the emerging theme.

As the Monmouth-by-election victor, Haw Edwards, put it, echoing Neil Kinnock's speech to the delegates earlier in the week: "Only vote Conservative if you want to see the national health service destroyed."

Fair or unfair, in a close election it could be a powerful theme. Labour may not have a new Big Idea. But it has a pretty good old one to hand.

Hospital opt-outs will be stopped on Labour's first day

By OUR POLITICAL EDITOR

THE next Labour government will act on its very first day to stop hospitals opting out of local health authority control and would start to bring back the hospitals that have opted for trust status, Robin Cook promised yesterday.

The shadow health spokesman, who has accepted publicly a British Medical Association figure of about £6 billion as the requirement, told delegates at his party's annual conference in Brighton that Labour would restore the underfunding of the national

health service "over the lifetime of a Labour parliament".

Complaining that the Conservatives had built a "one-party state" in the NHS, "packing health authorities with people who only answer to the secretary of state and who always answer yes", Mr Cook said that there would be three criteria for people appointed by Labour, that "they are representative of their local community, they live in their local community and they use the NHS".

Saying that there had been five million fewer eye tests in the two years since changes were instituted, he pledged: "We will restore the free eye test". He also promised a new priority for care in the community, saying: "We will provide each council with a community care grant and we will earmark it so that Tory councils like Devo [which he complained had plans to close three-quarters of its homes for the elderly] have to spend it on the care of their elderly."

With Labour preparing to make the NHS the main focus of its election campaign, Mr Cook pledged too: "We will start to clear out of our hospitals those private contractors who cannot meet the decent standards of a public service." Saying that it had resulted in worse fed patients and dirtier hospitals, he added: "We will scrap compulsory competitive tendering."

Summing up Labour's approach, the shadow health secretary said: "We will do these things not just because they are the right policies but because we have a vision of a society in which every member has a value. That is why we reject a health service in which every patient has a price."

On the question of funding, Mr Cook was less precise, arguing only: "It is no use having a tax cut if you are bottom of the waiting list and in pain. It is no use having a tax cut if your operation is cancelled because they closed beds to pay for it. That is why we will use the tax dividend from growth not to cut taxes but to heal the cuts in our public services."

In a debate that generated more passion than any so far at the conference, a stream of delegates came to the rostrum

denouncing the government for spending too little on the NHS and accusing ministers of wanting to destroy it before privatisation.

Hector Mackenzie, general secretary of Cohse, said that trust hospitals only wanted patients, dead or alive, if they brought contracts in with them. He inveighed against a government that had brought out collecting buckets for children's wards. He said: "Majorism is Thatcherism, a rat in the disguise of a grey squirrel".

Tessa Jewell, the candidate for Dulwich, said a consultant had told her: "The next election is going to be won in the corridors of the casualty ward [of his hospital]".

Malcolm Savage, the Labour candidate in the forthcoming Kincardine and Decside by-election, accused the Tories of "running scared" on hospital opt-outs and promised to make the by-election a referendum on the proposed opt-out for trust status of the Foresthill hospital in the constituency.

Haw Edwards, who won Monmouth from the Conservatives in the summer by-election that centred on health service issues, was cheered when he told the conference that the Neville Hall hospital in his constituency had decided two weeks ago not to go for trust status because it would not be able to provide the same quality of service and because the staff had been against it.

Caroline Crawley, of the transport workers, said that any voter, asked to pay an extra 1p in income tax to save the NHS, would willingly do so, and Ann Keen, a nursing tutor and candidate for Brentford and Isleworth, said she did not believe the health secretary, William Waldegrave, when he said that the NHS was not being privatised. She estimated that 11 million people in Britain were condemned to drinking sub-standard water. "Under Labour, every man, woman and child in Britain will be given a right to clean, safe, drinking water," she added. "And we will insist that the water companies tell you, on your bills, whether your water meets the required standards."

Water privatisation had confirmed Labour's worst fears, she said, leading to restricted access to public land, worse pollution.



Consumer champion: Ann Taylor said Labour would make water firms disclose if their water met EC standards

Controls pledged for water

ENVIRONMENT

ONE of the first acts of a Labour government would be to introduce consumer rights and environmental controls on the privatised water companies, Ann Taylor, Labour's environment protection spokeswoman, told the conference (Sheila Guna reports).

The companies would also be required to disclose on bills whether their drinking water met the European Community's minimum standards.

The party is committed to re-nationalising the water industry. However, as an interim step, Mrs Taylor said Labour would use the powers of the environment secretary to change the companies' priorities so that the needs of consumers and the environment came before the "greed of the shareholders".

She estimated that 11 million people in Britain were condemned to drinking sub-standard water. "Under Labour, every man, woman and child in Britain will be given a right to clean, safe, drinking water," she added. "And we will insist that the water companies tell you, on your bills, whether your water meets the required standards."

CONFERENCE DIARY by Roger Wood

Week's creep award

Shadow ministers and SMPs have become resigned to the need for the Labour conference to be as stage-managed and market-oriented as the Conservative equivalent. That is politics these days. But some are becoming disturbed at the growing obsequiousness to the leader that seems to go with the new style.

Not only did the conference give Neil Kinnock an eight-minute standing ovation, setting a target for the Tory faithful with John Major next week. There has also been a constant stream of flattering references from the floor to the leader's sagacity and oratorical skills.

To one delegate in the health debate it had already become "Neil Kinnock's famous speech" on Tuesday. But the creep of the week award went to one Graham Green, the candidate for Gravesend. His series of flattering ref-

erences to the leader in the defence debate, culminating in the cry "You've won the argument, now you'll win the election" provoked catcalls from the floor.

One member of the shadow cabinet was heard to mutter that Labour was now suffering from an outbreak of Kim-il-Sungism, after the Korean leader.

As the conference draws to a close, at least one of the party's policies is travelling north to Blackpool for next week's Tory gathering. Labour's pledge to allow men to retire at 60 has support among Conservative party agents, who do not seem disposed to wait for a government decision. On Monday, a meeting of the agents' superannuation fund will consider a motion "that the normal retirement age for men should be reduced to 60 with a corresponding reduction of early pension age to 55". Any decision will be watched by Tony Newton.

social services minister, who has promised a consultation document on the issue. The government has yet to respond to a European Court of Justice ruling that both sexes must be eligible for pension at the same age, but Labour believes it will compromise with a common retirement age of 63.

There was a renewed outbreak of election speculation yesterday when a message flashed on monitor screens throughout the conference centre asking Chris Moncrieff, political editor of the Press Association, to call John Wakeham's office. The energy secretary is one of the "Four Musketeers" who advise on the day-to-day efforts in the Tory election build-up. A scoop perhaps? No, the message appears to have been a hoax and the genial Moncrieff is threatening a terrible revenge if he finds the culprit.

Delegates deride Tories' aid to the Third World

By PETER MULLIGAN AND ROBERT MORGAN

LABOUR underlined its pledge to boost British aid to the Third World yesterday by alleging that levels given now punctured John Major's image as a caring leader.

Ann Clywd, shadow overseas aid minister, said that she would lift the UK contribution from 0.27 per cent of gross national product, a record low, to 0.7 per cent within five years.

She told delegates that the Tories had come to regard aid as a kind of "slush fund" for winning contracts abroad, but, she said, help should not be given at the expense of poor countries. Mrs Clywd criticised aid reduction last year and added: "John Major's record on aid is now even worse than Margaret Thatcher's."

She was speaking during a wide-ranging debate on foreign affairs during which Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary, described the pledge, in line with a United Nations target, as "costed and clear". From the conference floor, David Souter, parliamentary candidate at Hertsmere, said the government's policy had given Britain a reputation for meanness and dishonesty, adding: "The British government has let us down". He said that aid to the developing world was not an optional extra but part and parcel of international and economic policies.

Mr Kaufman launched a

FOREIGN AFFAIRS



Switzer: South African government condemned

fiere attack on the sale of arms, winning loud applause when he said: "Too many of those weapons are being exported by the Soviet Union and China, by Western countries and deplorably by this country's Tory government."

"There is no greater hypocrisy than Douglas Hurd moaning about the danger of a nuclear-armed Iraq when the Tory government played its part in assisting Iraq to acquire nuclear capability. 'The UN inspectors will be coming back from Baghdad with evidence of that and it is not surprising that the British government has made it known that it did not want that evidence published.' He

promised to work for an international regime to control arms exports, and the "rush" to dismantle sanctions against South Africa, work towards a Middle East peace settlement.

On defence, he said that Labour would work with the allies to scrap all land-based nuclear weapons in Europe, end the policy of first nuclear strike and ban nuclear testing. Labour was urging fresh talks to reduce world stocks of long-range nuclear weapons.

Barbara Switzer, MSP, moved an emergency motion condemning the South African government. She said that the recent revelations about government funding for Inkatha had shown that President de Klerk had a double agenda. Although he spoke about creating a constitution to prevent a minority ruling over the majority, in reality he wanted to maintain the status quo, she said.

Her motion, which was carried, called on the party to maintain its boycott of South African products until there was a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa.

Debates today

The conference ends today with John Cunningham, campaigns co-ordinator, launching the general election campaign. There will be votes of thanks with a reply by a representative of the press.

How the policies have changed

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PARTY DEBATE

MICHAEL FOOT'S 1983 general election manifesto, *The New Hope for Britain*, promised "a programme of socialist reconstruction" using North Sea oil revenues and borrowed money. Within its 40 drowsy pages ran the recurring theme of the threat from nuclear weapons.

In 1987, within the 17 glossy pages of Neil Kinnock's first manifesto, *Britain Will Win*, the talk was of "democratic socialism in action".

New voters are offered *Opportunity Britain, Labour's Better Way for the 1990s*, running to 58 pages, where the Labour leader says that the old ideologies do not work. "Modern democratic socialism" is the answer.

The comparison of election pledges below lists Labour's key policy shifts during the past eight years.

Europe: 1983, legislate to withdraw from the EC. 1987, reject EC interference with Labour's policy for national recovery. 1991, Britain to take leading role in EC and move towards economic and monetary union and accept the EC social charter.

Economy: 1983, a five-year £11 billion programme of public investment and construction financed through borrowing and oil revenues; re-introduce exchange controls; control imports through tariffs and quotas if necessary; restrain inflation by VAT cuts and a new Prices Commission; new annual tax on net personal wealth. 1987, introduce a £6 billion-a-year "recovery" programme; borrow £3 billion for "wealth-generating" investment; introduce a wealth tax; set up capital repatriation scheme to keep money in Britain.

1991, increased spending on pensions and child benefit; emphasis on control of inflation; income tax starting at higher income level; new top rate of tax on incomes over £30,000; abolish earnings limit on National Insurance contributions.

Privatisation and industry: 1983, return all Tory privatisations to public ownership; set up a publicly-owned national cable system; take a public stake in electronics, pharmaceuticals, health equipment, and building materials; re-establish British Shipbuilding Corporation. 1987, extend social ownership; convert private shares in BT and British Gas into special new securities; take a stake in high-tech industries. 1991, re-nationalise water companies and national grid.

Defence: 1983, unilateral and multilateral nuclear disarmament; cancel Trident; remove American cruise missiles and nuclear bases; ban arms sales to "repressive regimes"; support Nato while developing non-nuclear strategy. 1987, decommission Polaris submarines; cancel Trident and use money for conventional forces; remove American missiles. 1991, work for elimination of nuclear weapons through international negotiations; keep Trident but cancel fourth submarine.

Unions and employment: 1983, repeal Tory trade union laws; statutory support for collective bargaining. 1987, repeal Tory trade union laws; improve protection against unfair dismissal. 1991, repeal few of the Tory laws, such as the right to take sympathy action and right to picket peacefully; minimum wage of £3.40 an hour.

Housing: 1983, end enforced council house sales; freeze council house rents for first full year. 1987, maintain right-to-buy for council tenants. 1991, maintain right-to-buy and give tenants the option of part rent, part buy schemes.

Kinnock team has much to learn

IF LABOUR wins the next general election, Neil Kinnock will be the first occupant of 10 Downing Street not to have had any ministerial experience since Ramsay MacDonald, the party's first prime minister, 68 years ago.

Neither will he be able to draw from a pool of colleagues with much experience in the higher reaches of government. Almost 13 years on the Opposition benches have depleted the number of Labour men and women with practical knowledge of how Whitehall works.

Although Labour is credited with its most able shadow cabinet for years, the absence of ministerial experience in Labour's frontbench team will be exploited by the Conservative party in the run-up to the general election.

Mr Kinnock's shadow cabinet contains only three MPs with previous cabinet experience plus another six who have held ministerial office. Roy Hattersley and John Smith were in the last Labour cabinet and the party's leader in the Lords, Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, was in the cabinet from 1966 to 1970. It is a similar situation to that which faced the party in 1964, when

Labour's inexperience of government is likely to be exploited by the Tories. But Neil Kinnock has no lack of loyal aides and advisers, says Richard Ford

after 13 years of Tory government, Harold Wilson's first cabinet had only 12 MPs with previous government experience. Four, including Mr Wilson, had served at cabinet level.

While the Tories will highlight Mr Kinnock's lack of ministerial experience, opinion outside Westminster is divided on whether it would prove an important handicap to his management of government. He has been supported by the Opposition leader's office of 12 people, which, according to some senior civil servants, is similar to ministerial private offices and he has gathered around him a group of loyal aides and advisers, many of whom would be expected to join him Downing Street.

Mr Kinnock's office is run by Charles Clarke, the son of a former permanent secretary at the Treasury, who has been determined that its members should maintain a low profile.

Part of the reason is that the Labour leadership dislikes any discussion of kitchen cabinets which evokes memories of the Wilson years but also because they believe that, in office, it will make for better government. Mr Clarke is the Labour leader's main adviser and would be a key figure in 10 Downing Street, perhaps as the political secretary.

John Eastwell, a fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, provides economic advice and, like many others in the Labour leader's circle, has close links with the Institute for Public Policy Research. Patricia Hewitt, a former policy co-ordinator for Mr Kinnock, is a senior research fellow at the left-of-centre research institute, but has been tipped as a potential head of a Downing Street policy unit.

Chris Childs combines the role of advising on Africa with electoral "number crunching" and preparing constituency

profiles, while John Newbigin advises on the environment and Asia. Jan Royall is Mr Kinnock's diary secretary and Sue Nye, married to the City economist Gavin Davies, is preparing Mr Kinnock's election campaign tour.

Labour party sources deflect criticism of Mr Kinnock's lack of experience in government by pointing to the way he has managed the Labour party and chaired the shadow cabinet. "The great difference will be that in office he will have at his command a Rolls-Royce machine instead of the reliable and loyal vehicle available to him in the Opposition leader's office," one Labour source said.

As the election approaches, civil servants will be casting a close eye over any plans by Labour to reorganise parts of Whitehall and create new ministries. Lord Donoghue, who headed the No 10 policy unit under Harold Wilson and James Callaghan, said of the "Whitehall jungle": "It is crucial for the prime minister to have a policy unit to provide him with an input into key policy areas, an analysis to counter conventional wisdom, and to propose alternative policies."

8 OVERSEAS NEWS

THE TIMES FRIDAY OCTOBER 4 1991

Croat says Major sabotaged EC plan

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN ZAGREB

A SENIOR Croat official yesterday launched a scathing attack on Britain's attitude to the Yugoslav civil war and accused the government of sabotaging any meaningful intervention by the European Community.

Mario Nobilo, the chief foreign policy adviser to President Tudjman of Croatia, singled out John Major for failing to advocate the same help for Croats as that given to the Iraqi Kurds for what he called "British domestic and international political reasons". Speaking in his office in Zagreb, Mr Nobilo said: "Britain is opposing serious EC involvement because you have your own separatist problems, especially in Northern Ireland, and also you fear that closer military and political co-operation over Croatia would set a bad EC precedent."

Voicing anti-British sentiment heard daily by journalists on the streets and battlefields of Croatia, Mr Nobilo added: "We believe that the unprovoked attacks on Dubrovnik have shown the British public what type of war

this is and that now their view is ahead of the government's — the people in London want something to be done."

The British government is the target of particular anger in Croatia both because it led opposition to the sending of a 25,000-strong European peacekeeping force and because it opposed immediate recognition of Croatia, which was backed by Italy, Germany and Austria. "We just cannot understand a country like Britain where democracy was born," he said. "You granted independence to third world states which had never formally existed, yet you oppose it for a country like ours in the heart of Europe which was a state ten centuries ago and where the idea (of independence) was supported recently by 94 per cent of voters."

Mr Nobilo, who would be regarded as a moderate by many Croat nationalists, claimed he was not advocating the dispatch of "young British troops" to die on Croatian soil, where military experts judge any effective peacekeeping force would have to be at least 200,000 strong. "What

we are asking for is for you to back similar action to that taken against Iraq. Britain could support measures to defend Croatian airspace and for the dispatch of the United States Sixth Fleet to guarantee the freedom of navigation in the Adriatic."

He rejected as "morally wrong" EC demands that Croatia should extend the October 7 expiry of its three-month moratorium on implementing its independence from the Yugoslav federation.

Mr Nobilo emphasised that he was attacking the attitude of the British government and not the British people. "They have a strong record in the past of influencing their governments to side with democracies and we still believe they will do it again. But it may be too late," he added.

"Because we are secessionist and democratic, we set a dangerous precedent for you. The West sees us running against the trend for more integration in Europe. On the contrary, we say the time has come for small places in Europe to be a part of that integrated continent."



Fighting talk: Dr Franjo Tudjman, the president of Croatia, calling on Croatians to fight with their bare hands for their republic, which declared independence in June

Pearl of Adriatic defies merciless bombardment

FROM ASKOLD KRUSHENVSKY OF THE EUROPEAN IN DUBROVNIK

DUBROVNIK was under intense shelling from land, sea and air when I reached it by boat yesterday under the cover of a thick pall of smoke from blazing pine forests in the hills around the city that had been ignited by the shelling.

Smoke blotted out the sun, leaving the city in semi-darkness. Almost the first person we met in the Pearl of the Adriatic that is rapidly becoming a vision of hell was Martin Berthaud, the leader of an EC ceasefire monitoring group, who has been trapped in the tightening siege. He said: "This is a co-ordinated attack on a city which has no military value by the Yugoslav navy, air force and army. It has been obvious for some time that the ceasefire was a joke, but now I can tell you that the real war, the hot war, has started here."

The ceasefire team has made fruitless efforts to contact Yugoslav army commanders in the area, but they have been ignored. The only communication from the besieging forces has been an order to all Croat fighters in the city to surrender or withdraw. In a city that has been left without electricity, water or telephones, treatment of hundreds of civilian casualties is proving a nightmare for local doctors.

Thirty-seven kidney patients in the main hospital are at risk because there is no power for the dialysis machines. The EC monitors and the Red Cross are trying to arrange the evacuation of the wounded to Italy by sea, across the Adriatic, but Yugoslav naval patrols blockading the port are firing on any boats approaching the coast.

Fighting on the outskirts of the city has been intense and often at close quarters, as federal troops probe the defences manned by lightly-armed Croat national guardsmen. So far the historic centre of Dubrovnik, considered the cradle of Croatian culture, and one of the finest medieval cities in Europe, has not been badly damaged. But villages in the surrounding hills have been levelled by artillery fire and left burning, adding to the many fires raging around us.

Against overwhelming odds, the Dubrovnik police chief, who is co-ordinating the city's defence, said his forces

would be able to withstand a long and bloody siege, despite the federal army's superior weapons. "Our enemies have the technology and the weapons, but we have the morale — we will never surrender," he said. "This is the heart of Croatia, and we will defend it to the last." In an emotional appeal for help to the world, the city's mayor, Pero Poljanec, said: "At this moment, we are, perhaps for the first time in our 2,000-year history, isolated by air, sea and land; the guns are turned against our noble city."

Husain fields new team

Amman — Jordan's cabinet has been reshuffled, with six new members appointed to give the government greater backing for the peace negotiations with Israel later this month (Adam Kelliher writes). The appointments came after the recent resignations of four ministers, who left because they opposed any talks with the Jewish state.

The four complained publicly about government support for the US-brokered peace process, and political sources said that their behaviour had angered King Husain who reprimanded the prime minister, Taher Maari, for not pre-empting their resignations by sacking them.

African 'threat'

Madrid — Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the National Front in France, brought his anti-immigration campaign to a meeting of right-wing members of the European parliament here, saying that immigration from North Africa "has only just begun" and could "threaten all European countries with disappearance". (Reuters)

Submarine blast

Moscow — An explosion in a missile launch tube of a Soviet submarine hurled fragments of the launcher into the White Sea off Russia's northern coast but caused no fuel leakage, the defence ministry said. Tass said the explosion was caused by a "technical malfunction". It said there were no injuries. (AP)

Violence mars German unity

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

Immigrants in the east Bonn suburb of Beuel spent the first anniversary of German unity fearing for their safety. The hallway of the Goetheschule still reeks of the burning pullover flung inside a couple of nights ago. There are new locks on the doors and a recently repaired window on the second floor.

More than a year ago the school was taken over to house immigrants from Eastern Europe. Tucked away behind a quiet suburban street, nobody locally bothered about it.

Then, last weekend, a brick was thrown through a window. "We don't know who did it and of course we are worried," said Valentina Vilpov. "The police can find out nothing so we must expect it to happen again." Two nights later, the burning pullover was thrown into the school. The residents were able to put out the fire themselves and there was little damage. But the mood has changed. The Poles, Romanians and Russians who live there are watchful of any strangers and careful to be in by 11pm each night when the doors are locked.

Suburban Beuel does not look deprived. The only graffiti nearby is not fascist but left-wing, urging "Death to capitalism" or telling Nato to get out. Police are convinced that the attacks on Goetheschule are copycat acts rather than the work of convinced racists. That is little comfort to its families, most of whom speak little or no German and who are struggling to integrate in a strange community.

The Goetheschule is typical of most hostels occupied by refugees. Some 73 per cent of all the 500,000 migrants who have arrived in Germany this year, officially

or unofficially, come from Eastern Europe and many are ethnic Germans. Attacks on them are fired by resentment at the social security they are paid and the housing they occupy, rather than by racism. This is in contrast to the attacks on hostels for coloured people, which are largely in the east. Before unity, people from countries with communist regimes such as Vietnam and Mozambique were lured to East Germany to do menial jobs.

After the Wall fell, they were stranded, unable or unwilling to go home, but could no longer find work. They have been the chief targets of the unemployed neo-nazis now organised in the east, who are inspiring copycat groups throughout the country with the wary "Germany for the Germans".

On the day of German unity one year ago, skin-heads shouting abuse went on the rampage in Berlin and Leipzig, beating up left-wingers demonstrating against a fourth Reich. The same chants were raised again yesterday when neo-nazis stormed a hostel at Luckenwalde in the east, shortly after it was evacuated as a precautionary measure by its 32 Ghanaian residents.

The most serious incident yesterday, however, occurred at Hönke near Düsseldorf in the west, where two Lebanese children, aged five and nine, were severely burnt after fire bombs were thrown into the bedroom of the hostel where they were staying. At Kassel a group of two dozen men armed with iron bars smashed up another hostel. Police reported at least a dozen other incidents during the day which dampened the official festivities in Hamburg.

NOW PERSIL AND WHIRLPOOL BRING YOU THE ECOLOGY WASH.



For starters the Persil carton is made from less packaging and it crushes easily, taking up less space in your bin end in landfill sites.

Yet it pours and stores as easily as a bottle. Then there's the new AQUAline range of washing machines from Whirlpool, with special sensors which know exactly how much water is needed for each wash. So they use less water than previous models and less electricity to

heat the water to the correct wash temperature. Persil and Whirlpool. Save packaging, save water and save electricity.



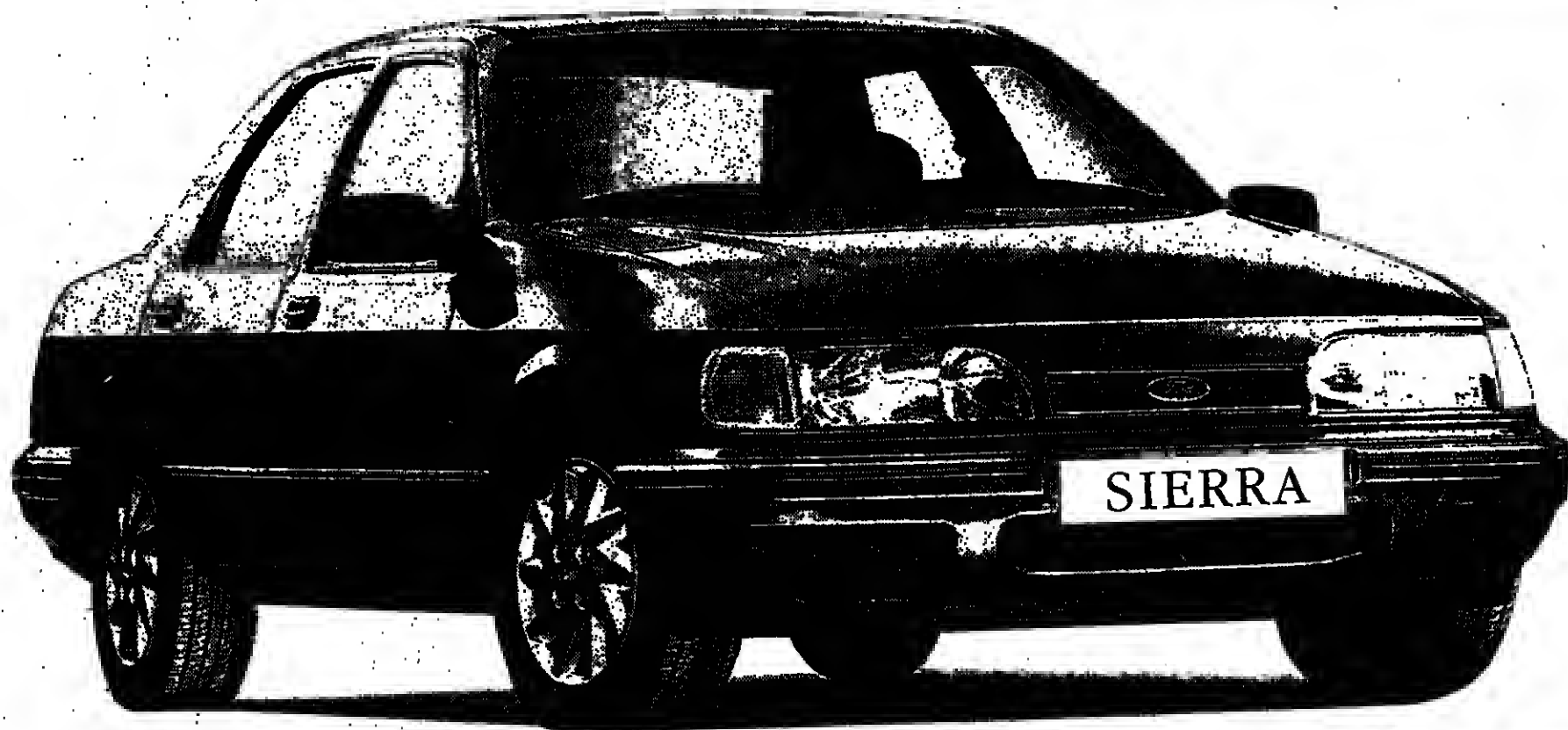
PHILIPS

Whirlpool

Persil
automatic

Free Teddy Bear with every new Whirlpool washing machine till 2nd November — ask your stockist.

Everything we do is driven by



The latest Sierra LX.

you,



The new Escort van.

you,



The new Fiesta Fresco.

and you.

This Autumn there are more reasons than ever to visit your Ford dealer. From the comeback of the legendary RS2000 to vastly improved specifications on many Sierra, Escort and Orion models.

And your dealer will be keen to give you extra special deals on prior models. There are also Special Edition Fiestas, Orions and Sierras with reductions of up to £800 over the equivalent specification models at July 3rd maximum retail prices.

It all starts with a Fiesta Bonus from £5,999 at maximum retail prices excluding delivery at £325 and number plates.

The class leading new Escort van is about to be joined by the totally new Courier van and new generation Transit. More than enough reasons to visit your Ford dealer to check out the Ford Autumn-motive promotion.

Everything we do is driven by you.



Delhi court overturns Bhopal immunity

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA'S Supreme Court yesterday upheld a controversial \$470 million (£268 million) settlement in the Bhopal gas catastrophe seven years ago. But it permitted the reopening of criminal proceedings for negligence against Union Carbide, owners of the pesticide plant from which the gas leaked.

The decision is the latest twist in a complex legal and political case that has left most of the survivors with little or no compensation, despite debilitating injuries. Voluntary organisations representing the victims have described the settlement, agreed during Rajiv Gandhi's administration in 1989, as a sell-out. Under the agreement the company did not admit liability and was granted immunity from criminal prosecution.

The gas leak killed at least 3,500 people. More than 500,000 survivors have lodged compensation claims, but large numbers have still received nothing. Those whose claims have been approved have been receiving monthly payments of 200 rupees (£5) in interim relief pending a final settlement, but even this has

been dogged by bribery and bureaucratic incompetence. Most of the victims live in poverty in slums surrounding the plant, in central India.

Chief Justice R. N. Mishra, ruling out a review of the \$470 million cash settlement, said compensation in a case of this type was generally by a rough and ready process. The court was keen to have an early settlement. If litigation had been allowed to go on in the Bhopal courts "we can fairly assume that litigation in India would have taken 20 years to reach finality".

It remains to be seen how the state government of Madhya Pradesh, of which Bhopal is the capital, will manage to distribute the compensation, given the chaotic nature of its efforts to give much smaller interim relief. Large numbers of those claiming compensation have not come forward with supporting medical data, in many cases because they are intimidated by complicated bureaucratic procedures; in other cases, they have not received money because of bureaucratic mix-ups. The exercise has been further complicated because bribed officials have approved

large numbers of fraudulent claims, according to activists representing the victims.

Few of the victims have made full recoveries, and doctors have said that health problems are passing into the next generation. The Indian Council of Medical Research, which has a gas disaster centre in Bhopal, said in its 1990 annual report that there was a rising incidence of lung, eye, gastrointestinal, skin and neuro-psychological disorders among victims. There was also evidence of increased chromosomal aberrations.

Soon after succeeding Mr Gandhi in November 1989, the government headed by Vishwanath Prasad Singh announced that it would challenge the "final and final" settlement reached with Union Carbide. It supported petitions to the supreme court to allow criminal proceedings to be opened against the company as well as to give greater compensation. G. N. Goswami, then the law and justice minister, declared that "life is not so cheap in India that a disaster which affected hundreds of thousands of people can be compensated by \$470 million".



Stairway to heaven: pallbearers heave a coffin up steps to a cemetery in Hong Kong, where traditional funerals are popular despite being abolished in mainland China

Japanese bank chief quits in forgery scandal

From JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

TAIZO Hashida, the chairman of Fuji Bank, Japan's fourth largest city bank, resigned yesterday following his bank's involvement in a forgery which resulted in the issuing of fake deposit certificates worth almost \$2 billion (£1.2 billion).

Kyutaro Hashimoto, the finance minister, also officially tendered his resignation yesterday, to take effect after October 17, when the International Monetary Fund meetings close in Bangkok. He is resigning after scandals involving more than \$6 billion, that took place in the markets which he was responsible for policing.

Such self-flagellation has been the leitmotif of the summer in Tokyo financial circles. Mr Hashida is the ninth senior financial executive to resign in the past year to take responsibility for a scandal. Like the others, however, Mr Hashida will continue to come into work as normal, but will henceforth carry the business card of an "adviser".

Senior directors at Fuji Bank, and at Tokai Bank and Kyowa Saitama Bank, which have also admitted to similar schemes, yesterday announced self-imposed pay cuts of 20 to 50 per cent for the next three to six months.

Mr Hashida has also been the subject of an exposé of its allegedly harsh working conditions. Akio Kato, an employee of Fuji Bank has just published an account of his 31 years working for Fuji. At the bank's 1980 centenary, Mr Kato writes, employees were ordered: "Work three times as hard. We want you all to be urinating blood."

More than one of his colleagues was reportedly frogmarched back to his desk on his wedding day, having had to cancel his nuptials, to help cope with a surge in business that day. Others, he says, have been hit over the head with an abacus and publicly berated for not earning enough for the bank. A 14-hour day is apparently expected from serious Fuji Bank careerists, and Mr Kato writes that he and others were sometimes pushed into working 100 hours of overtime, while being paid for only 20 to 30 hours.

The draconian codes of practice at Japanese banks and corporations were at their worst during the 1985-6 *endaka* or "rising yen" days, when employees fought, sometimes to their deaths, against the world's currency markets to maintain their companies' export drives. Some believe that today's feudal work ethic is a legacy of

bushido, the strict code dictating a samurai warrior's way of life and emphasising obedience to his master.

When Sakae Iwata, a Fuji Bank employee, died last year at the age of 23 of a severe asthma attack brought on by 14-hour days, the following two poems of *bushido* seemed to ring worryingly close to the truth: "A warrior aspires to serve his master as if his body were already dead," and "When in doubt, don't hesitate — choose death."

● **Jakarta:** Indonesian war veterans asked Emperor Akihito of Japan yesterday for \$650 million (£371 million) compensation for their work as soldiers for Japan during the second world war.

The emperor yesterday began a four-day visit to Indonesia which Japan occupied from 1942-45, a period described by many older people as more brutal than the three and a half centuries of Dutch colonial rule. (Reuter)

Kim sees Chinese leaders

Peking — President Kim of North Korea arrived in Peking today on his first official visit in four years. It is thought that he will see Deng Xiaoping, China's senior leader (Catherine Sampson writes).

At the top of the agenda is how the two countries can resist Western pressure to make concessions on arms control. South Korea claims that North Korea may just be a year or two from building a nuclear bomb. Kim Jong Nam, North Korea's foreign minister, has refused inspection of his country's nuclear facilities in accordance with the International Atomic Energy Agency guidelines until American nuclear weapons are removed from South Korea. Washington declines to confirm their presence.

Death toll rises

Dhaka — The official death toll in Bangladesh's month-old diarrhoea epidemic rose to 1,200, though non-government health workers claimed at least 3,000 had died. State radio said at least 65 people were dying every day in the flood-ravaged north, where air force helicopters have been dropping medicine and water.

Merchants flee

Delhi — Five wealthy Indian diamond merchants kidnapped last month have escaped from their captors. They broke free from a house in a suburb of Delhi. The Bombay-based businessmen had been lured to Delhi by a man claiming to represent an Italian company purchasing diamonds. (Reuter)

Two die in clash

Yaounde — Cameroon soldiers firing tear gas from helicopters and lorries attacked pro-democracy protesters who rampaged through Bamenda, the western stronghold of opposition leader John Fru Ndi's Social Democratic Front. Two men were killed and 16 people were injured, the state news agency reported. (AP)



Hashida: leaving the bank after resigning yesterday

What tastes of soil and costs the earth?

By JOANNA PITMAN

BRITISH mushrooms, usually tasteless little growths, forced from buckets in dank cupboards, do not come cheap. But even the best-hatched Mayfair hostess would wince at the price of Japanese *matsutake* mushrooms. This year's unusually dry summer has forced *matsutake* prices to £80. Per mushroom. As such a fungus is only about six inches long, it is short work to munch your way through what could have bought a dinner for two at the Savoy Grill. Yet every self-respecting Japanese housewife will have had *matsutake* on her shopping list this week, for the first week of October without *matsutake* is like Christmas without turkey.

The *matsutake* flavour can be described only as elusive, a bit like trying to pick down the taste of Edam after eating a chicken vindaloo. Fresher palates might detect an earthy flavour, but it is the whiff of cooked *matsutake* that makes the earth move for the Japanese. Most see nothing strange about paying

several days' wages for a few pleasurable sniffs from the cooking pot. Of course, not everyone can afford £80 for one gorgeous six-inch mushroom. The poor and parsimonious will opt for three or four inches of stalk. Even these are sold in Tokyo supermarkets, coddled in tissue paper and festooned with ribbons.

It is astonishing how far a few inches of mushroom stalk can go in a Japanese kitchen. Like a teabag used, reused and hung out to dry, the wretched fungus infuses the soup, flavours the rice, adds whatever zest remains to the vegetable dish and is only then fished out to be grilled in stivers. Just as fake Picasso lurk in the art market, plain old mushrooms posing as *matsutake* have begun infiltrating the grocery shops. With potential rewards so high, the shrewd mushroom producers can now fob off the less discriminate with ordinary mushrooms sprayed or injected with the scent.

AT COMET YOU CAN PAY OVER 10 MONTHS. (NOT OVER THE ODDS.)

At Comet, you don't just have less to pay, you have more time to pay.

Right now, we're offering 10 Months Interest Free Credit* on selected Mitsubishi and Hitachi Colour TVs and Video Recorders.

And up to 10 Months Interest Free Credit* on selected CD Hi-Fi systems.

As if that's not enough, we'll give you a Free Discount Card entitling you to 10% off all CDs purchased at Woolworths when you buy any CD based product from us†.

We'll give you a Free British Airways European Return Flight with selected Sony Colour TVs, Video Recorders and CD Hi-Fi systems. Please ask in-store for full details.

And there's also Free Pre-recorded Video Tapes with selected Panasonic Colour TVs and Video Recorders.

At Comet, Christmas has come early.

RADIO CASSETTES

1 Selection from our Range
SONY LFS201.....SAVE £47.99
4 wavebands/Main/Latter/Tune control
HITACHI J1130.....SAVE £5... 69.99
4 wavebands/Twin cassette/
Graphic equaliser/30 watts PMPO
SHARP QT1313.....139.99
4 wavebands/Class band/CD player
Free CD Discount Card†
PHILIPS V2024.....199.99
CD player/Class band/Twin cassette
"Main, Comp, Mix" Competition
Free CD Discount Card†

VIDEO & AUDIO TAPES

Save up to 20% with multiple purchases.
Spend over £25.....SAVE £5.00
Spend over £50.....SAVE £10.00
Spend over £75.....SAVE £15.00
Spend over £100.....SAVE £20.00
Spend over £150.....SAVE £30.00
Spend over £200.....SAVE £40.00
Spend over £250.....SAVE £50.00
Spend over £300.....SAVE £60.00
Spend over £350.....SAVE £70.00
Spend over £400.....SAVE £80.00
Spend over £450.....SAVE £90.00
Spend over £500.....SAVE £100.00
Spend over £550.....SAVE £110.00
Spend over £600.....SAVE £120.00
Spend over £650.....SAVE £130.00
Spend over £700.....SAVE £140.00
Spend over £750.....SAVE £150.00
Spend over £800.....SAVE £160.00
Spend over £850.....SAVE £170.00
Spend over £900.....SAVE £180.00
Spend over £950.....SAVE £190.00
Spend over £1000.....SAVE £200.00
Spend over £1050.....SAVE £210.00
Spend over £1100.....SAVE £220.00
Spend over £1150.....SAVE £230.00
Spend over £1200.....SAVE £240.00
Spend over £1250.....SAVE £250.00
Spend over £1300.....SAVE £260.00
Spend over £1350.....SAVE £270.00
Spend over £1400.....SAVE £280.00
Spend over £1450.....SAVE £290.00
Spend over £1500.....SAVE £300.00
Spend over £1550.....SAVE £310.00
Spend over £1600.....SAVE £320.00
Spend over £1650.....SAVE £330.00
Spend over £1700.....SAVE £340.00
Spend over £1750.....SAVE £350.00
Spend over £1800.....SAVE £360.00
Spend over £1850.....SAVE £370.00
Spend over £1900.....SAVE £380.00
Spend over £1950.....SAVE £390.00
Spend over £2000.....SAVE £400.00
Spend over £2050.....SAVE £410.00
Spend over £2100.....SAVE £420.00
Spend over £2150.....SAVE £430.00
Spend over £2200.....SAVE £440.00
Spend over £2250.....SAVE £450.00
Spend over £2300.....SAVE £460.00
Spend over £2350.....SAVE £470.00
Spend over £2400.....SAVE £480.00
Spend over £2450.....SAVE £490.00
Spend over £2500.....SAVE £500.00
Spend over £2550.....SAVE £510.00
Spend over £2600.....SAVE £520.00
Spend over £2650.....SAVE £530.00
Spend over £2700.....SAVE £540.00
Spend over £2750.....SAVE £550.00
Spend over £2800.....SAVE £560.00
Spend over £2850.....SAVE £570.00
Spend over £2900.....SAVE £580.00
Spend over £2950.....SAVE £590.00
Spend over £3000.....SAVE £600.00
Spend over £3050.....SAVE £610.00
Spend over £3100.....SAVE £620.00
Spend over £3150.....SAVE £630.00
Spend over £3200.....SAVE £640.00
Spend over £3250.....SAVE £650.00
Spend over £3300.....SAVE £660.00
Spend over £3350.....SAVE £670.00
Spend over £3400.....SAVE £680.00
Spend over £3450.....SAVE £690.00
Spend over £3500.....SAVE £700.00
Spend over £3550.....SAVE £710.00
Spend over £3600.....SAVE £720.00
Spend over £3650.....SAVE £730.00
Spend over £3700.....SAVE £740.00
Spend over £3750.....SAVE £750.00
Spend over £3800.....SAVE £760.00
Spend over £3850.....SAVE £770.00
Spend over £3900.....SAVE £780.00
Spend over £3950.....SAVE £790.00
Spend over £4000.....SAVE £800.00
Spend over £4050.....SAVE £810.00
Spend over £4100.....SAVE £820.00
Spend over £4150.....SAVE £830.00
Spend over £4200.....SAVE £840.00
Spend over £4250.....SAVE £850.00
Spend over £4300.....SAVE £860.00
Spend over £4350.....SAVE £870.00
Spend over £4400.....SAVE £880.00
Spend over £4450.....SAVE £890.00
Spend over £4500.....SAVE £900.00
Spend over £4550.....SAVE £910.00
Spend over £4600.....SAVE £920.00
Spend over £4650.....SAVE £930.00
Spend over £4700.....SAVE £940.00
Spend over £4750.....SAVE £950.00
Spend over £4800.....SAVE £960.00
Spend over £4850.....SAVE £970.00
Spend over £4900.....SAVE £980.00
Spend over £4950.....SAVE £990.00
Spend over £5000.....SAVE £1000.00
Spend over £5050.....SAVE £1010.00
Spend over £5100.....SAVE £1020.00
Spend over £5150.....SAVE £1030.00
Spend over £5200.....SAVE £1040.00
Spend over £5250.....SAVE £1050.00
Spend over £5300.....SAVE £1060.00
Spend over £5350.....SAVE £1070.00
Spend over £5400.....SAVE £1080.00
Spend over £5450.....SAVE £1090.00
Spend over £5500.....SAVE £1100.00
Spend over £5550.....SAVE £1110.00
Spend over £5600.....SAVE £1120.00
Spend over £5650.....SAVE £1130.00
Spend over £5700.....SAVE £1140.00
Spend over £5750.....SAVE £1150.00
Spend over £5800.....SAVE £1160.00
Spend over £5850.....SAVE £1170.00
Spend over £5900.....SAVE £1180.00
Spend over £5950.....SAVE £1190.00
Spend over £6000.....SAVE £1200.00
Spend over £6050.....SAVE £1210.00
Spend over £6100.....SAVE £1220.00
Spend over £6150.....SAVE £1230.00
Spend over £6200.....SAVE £1240.00
Spend over £6250.....SAVE £1250.00
Spend over £6300.....SAVE £1260.00
Spend over £6350.....SAVE £1270.00
Spend over £6400.....SAVE £1280.00
Spend over £6450.....SAVE £1290.00
Spend over £6500.....SAVE £1300.00
Spend over £6550.....SAVE £1310.00
Spend over £6600.....SAVE £1320.00
Spend over £6650.....SAVE £1330.00
Spend over £6700.....SAVE £1340.00
Spend over £6750.....SAVE £1350.00
Spend over £6800.....SAVE £1360.00
Spend over £6850.....SAVE £1370.00
Spend over £6900.....SAVE £1380.00
Spend over £6950.....SAVE £1390.00
Spend over £7000.....SAVE £1400.00
Spend over £7050.....SAVE £1410.00
Spend over £7100.....SAVE £1420.00
Spend over £7150.....SAVE £1430.00
Spend over £7200.....SAVE £1440.00
Spend over £7250.....SAVE £1450.00
Spend over £7300.....SAVE £1460.00
Spend over £7350.....SAVE £1470.00
Spend over £7400.....SAVE £1480.00
Spend over £7450.....SAVE £1490.00
Spend over £7500.....SAVE £1500.00
Spend over £7550.....SAVE £1510.00
Spend over £7600.....SAVE £1520.00
Spend over £7650.....SAVE £1530.00
Spend over £7700.....SAVE £1540.00
Spend over £7750.....SAVE £1550.00
Spend over £7800.....SAVE £1560.00
Spend over £7850.....SAVE £1570.00
Spend over £7900.....SAVE £1580.00
Spend over £7950.....SAVE £1590.00
Spend over £8000.....SAVE £1600.00
Spend over £8050.....SAVE £1610.00
Spend over £8100.....SAVE £1620.00
Spend over £8150.....SAVE £1630.00
Spend over £8200.....SAVE £1640.00
Spend over £8250.....SAVE £1650.00
Spend over £8300.....SAVE £1660.00
Spend over £8350.....SAVE £1670.00
Spend over £8400.....SAVE £1680.00
Spend over £8450.....SAVE £1690.00
Spend over £8500.....SAVE £1700.00
Spend over £8550.....SAVE £1710.00
Spend over £8600.....SAVE £1720.00
Spend over £8650.....SAVE £1730.00
Spend over £8700.....SAVE £1740.00
Spend over £8750.....SAVE £1750.00
Spend over £8800.....SAVE £1760.00
Spend over £8850.....SAVE £1770.00
Spend over £8900.....SAVE £1780.00
Spend over £8950.....SAVE £1790.00
Spend over £9000.....SAVE £1800.00
Spend over £9050.....SAVE £1810.00
Spend over £9100.....SAVE £1820.00
Spend over £9150.....SAVE £1830.00
Spend over £9200.....SAVE £1840.00
Spend over £9250.....SAVE £1850.00
Spend over £9300.....SAVE £1860.00
Spend over £9350.....SAVE £1870.00
Spend over £9400.....SAVE £1880.00
Spend over £9450.....SAVE £1890.00
Spend over £9500.....SAVE £1900.00
Spend over £9550.....SAVE £1910.00
Spend over £9600.....SAVE £1920.00
Spend over £9650.....SAVE £1930.00
Spend over £9700.....SAVE £1940.00
Spend over £9750.....SAVE £1950.00
Spend over £9800.....SAVE £1960.00
Spend over £9850.....SAVE £1970.00
Spend over £9900.....SAVE £1980.00
Spend over £9950.....SAVE £1990.00
Spend over £10000.....SAVE £2000.00
Spend over £10050.....SAVE £2010.00
Spend over £10100.....SAVE £2020.00
Spend over £10150.....SAVE £2030.00
Spend over £10200.....SAVE £2040.00
Spend over £10250.....SAVE £2050.00
Spend over £10300.....SAVE £2060.00
Spend over £10350.....SAVE £2070.00
Spend over £10400.....SAVE £2080.00
Spend over £10450.....SAVE £2090.00
Spend over £10500.....SAVE £2100.00
Spend over £10550.....SAVE £2110.00
Spend over £10600.....SAVE £2120.00
Spend over £10650.....SAVE £2130.00
Spend over £10700.....SAVE £2140.00
Spend over £10750.....SAVE £2150.00
Spend over £10800.....SAVE £2160.00
Spend over £10850.....SAVE £2170.00
Spend over £10900.....SAVE £2180.00
Spend over £10950.....SAVE £2190.00
Spend over £11000.....SAVE £2200.00
Spend over £11050.....SAVE £2210.00
Spend over £11100.....SAVE £2220.00
Spend over £11150.....SAVE £2230.00
Spend over £11200.....SAVE £2240.00
Spend over £11250.....SAVE £2250.00
Spend over £11300.....SAVE £2260.00
Spend over £11350.....SAVE £2270.00
Spend over £11400.....SAVE £2280.00
Spend over £11450.....SAVE £2290.00
Spend over £11500.....SAVE £2300.00
Spend over £11550.....SAVE £2310.00
Spend over £11600.....SAVE £2320.00
Spend over £11650.....SAVE £2330.00
Spend over £11700.....SAVE £2340.00
Spend over £11750.....SAVE £2350.00
Spend over £11800.....SAVE £2360.00
Spend over £11850.....SAVE £2370.00
Spend over £11900.....SAVE £2380.00
Spend over £11950.....SAVE £2390.00
Spend over £12000.....SAVE £2400.00
Spend over £12050.....SAVE £2410.00
Spend over £12100.....SAVE £2420.00
Spend over £12150.....SAVE £2430.00
Spend over £12200.....SAVE £2440.00
Spend over £12250.....SAVE £2450.00
Spend over £12300.....SAVE £2460.00
Spend over £12350.....SAVE £2470.00
Spend over £12400.....SAVE £2480.00
Spend over £12450.....SAVE £2490.00
Spend over £12500.....SAVE £2500.00
Spend over £12550.....SAVE £2510.00
Spend over £12600.....SAVE £2520.00
Spend over £12650.....SAVE £2530.00
Spend over £12700.....SAVE £2540.00
Spend over £12750.....SAVE £2550.00
Spend over £12800.....SAVE £2560.00
Spend over £12850.....SAVE £2570.00
Spend over £12900.....SAVE £2580.00
Spend over £12950.....SAVE £2590.00
Spend over £13000.....SAVE £2600.00
Spend over £13050.....SAVE £2610.00
Spend over £13100.....SAVE £2620.00
Spend over £13150.....SAVE £2630.00
Spend over £13200.....SAVE £2640.00
Spend over £13250.....SAVE £2650.00
Spend over £13300.....SAVE £2660.00
Spend over £13350.....SAVE £2670.00
Spend over £13400.....SAVE £2680.00
Spend over £13450.....SAVE £2690.00
Spend over £13500.....SAVE £2700.00
Spend over £13550.....SAVE £2710.00
Spend over £13600.....SAVE £2720.00
Spend over £13650.....SAVE £2730.00
Spend over £13700.....SAVE £2740.00
Spend over £13750.....SAVE £2750.00
Spend over £13800.....SAVE £2760.00
Spend over £13850.....SAVE £2770.00
Spend over £13900.....SAVE £2780.00
Spend over £13950.....SAVE £2790.00
Spend over £14000.....SAVE £2800.00
Spend over £14050.....SAVE £2810.00
Spend over £14100.....SAVE £2820.00
Spend over £14150.....SAVE £2830.00
Spend over £14200.....SAVE £2840.00
Spend over £14250.....SAVE £2850.00
Spend over £14300.....SAVE £2860.00
Spend over £14350.....SAVE £2870.00
Spend over £14400.....SAVE £2880.00
Spend over £14450.....SAVE £2890.00
Spend over £14500.....SAVE £2900.00
Spend over £14550.....SAVE £2910.00
Spend over £14600.....SAVE £2920.00
Spend over £14650.....SAVE £2930.00
Spend over £14700.....SAVE £2940.00
Spend over £14750.....SAVE £2950.00
Spend over £14800.....SAVE £2960.00
Spend over £14850.....SAVE £2970.00
Spend over £14900.....SAVE £2980.00
Spend over £14950.....SAVE £2990.00
Spend over £15000.....SAVE £3000.00
Spend over £15050.....SAVE £3010.00
Spend over £15100.....SAVE £3020.00
Spend over £15150.....SAVE £3030.00
Spend over £15200.....SAVE £3040.00
Spend over £15250.....SAVE £3050.00
Spend over £15300.....SAVE £3060.00
Spend over £15350.....SAVE £3070.00
Spend over £15400.....SAVE £3080.00
Spend over £15450.....SAVE £3090.00
Spend over £15500.....SAVE £3100.00
Spend over £15550.....SAVE £3110.00
Spend over £15600.....SAVE £3120.00
Spend over £15650.....SAVE £3130.00
Spend over £15700.....SAVE £3140.00
Spend over £15750.....SAVE £3150.00
Spend over £15800.....SAVE £3160.00
Spend over £15850.....SAVE £3170.00
Spend over £15900.....SAVE £3180.00
Spend over £15950.....SAVE £3190.00
Spend over £16000.....SAVE £3200.00
Spend over £16050.....SAVE £3210.00
Spend over £16100.....SAVE £3220.00
Spend over £16150.....SAVE £3230.00
Spend over £16200.....SAVE £3240.00
Spend over £16250.....SAVE £3250.00
Spend over £16300.....SAVE £3260.00
Spend over £16350.....SAVE £3270.00
Spend over £16400.....SAVE £3280.00
Spend over £16450.....SAVE £3290.00
Spend over £16500.....SAVE £3300.00
Spend over £16550.....SAVE £3310.00
Spend over £16600.....SAVE £3320.00
Spend over £16650.....SAVE £3330.00
Spend over £16700.....SAVE £3340.00
Spend over £16750.....SAVE £3350.00
Spend over £16800.....SAVE £3360.00
Spend over £16850.....SAVE £3370.00
Spend over £16900.....SAVE £3380.00
Spend over £16950.....SAVE £3390.00
Spend over £17000.....SAVE £3400.00
Spend over £17050.....SAVE £3410.00
Spend over £17100.....SAVE £3420.00
Spend over £17150.....SAVE £3430.00
Spend over £17200.....SAVE £3440.00
Spend over £17250.....SAVE £3450.00
Spend over £17300.....SAVE £3460.00
Spend over £17350.....SAVE £3470.00
Spend over £17400.....SAVE £3480.00
Spend over £17450.....SAVE £3490.00
Spend over £17500.....SAVE £3500.00
Spend over £17550.....SAVE £3510.00
Spend over £17600.....SAVE £3520.00
Spend over £17650.....SAVE £3530.00
Spend over £17700.....SAVE £3540.00
Spend over £17750.....SAVE £3550.00
Spend over £17800.....SAVE £3560.00
Spend over £17850.....SAVE £3570.00
Spend over £17900.....SAVE £3580.00
Spend over £17950.....SAVE £3590.00
Spend over £18000.....SAVE £3600.00
Spend over £18050.....SAVE £3610.00
Spend over £18100.....SAVE £3620.00
Spend over £18150.....SAVE £3630.00
Spend over £18200.....SAVE £3640.00
Spend over £18250.....SAVE £3650.00
Spend over £18300.....SAVE £3660.00
Spend over £18350.....SAVE £3670.00
Spend over £18400.....SAVE £3680.00
Spend over £18450.....SAVE £3690.00
Spend over £18500.....SAVE £3700.00
Spend over £18550.....SAVE £3710.00
Spend over £18600.....SAVE £3720.00
Spend over £18650.....SAVE £3730.00
Spend over £18700.....SAVE £3740.00
Spend over £18750.....SAVE £3750.00
Spend over £18800.....SAVE £3760.00

TOYOTA
WORLD MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

High performance. Low finance.



CELICA

美

"A thing of beauty should be an item of value."

Unbeatable Offers.

The Celica GT. The Celica GT-Four. The coupés long admired from afar are temporarily well within reach.

The current low interest rates on both 16-valve Celicas speak for themselves.

2% Interest 4% (APR)

	Celica GT	Celica GT-Four
On the Road Price	£19,565.40*	£25,214.60*
Deposit (50%)	£9,782.70	£12,607.30
Balance	£9,782.70	£12,607.30
Finance Rate	2%, 4% APR	
Repayment Period	24 months	
Monthly Rental	£423.92	£546.32
Option to Purchase	£23.00	£23.00
Total amount payable	£19,979.78	£25,741.98

You might even find that your Toyota dealer is offering extremely generous part exchange terms. Or exceptional cash deals. Or... well, best talk to him.

Unrivalled Pedigree.

The Celica name is synonymous with performance. Exactly the same performance that's

powered Carlos Sainz to numerous famous rally victories the world over.

Unmatched Reliability.

Toyota's reputation for reliability is legendary. It's that very reliability which enables us to give you a free 3-year/60,000 mile warranty** on both the Celica GT and Celica GT-Four (indeed, on all new Toyotas).

Outstanding Value.

Both Celicas come with the staggeringly high, class-beating levels of specification that's

Standard Equipment	Celica GT 2.0 Litre	Celica GT-Four 2.0 Litre Turbo
ABS	✓	✓
Electric sunroof/tilt slide	✓	✓
Electric mirrors	✓	✓
RDS stereo radio/Cassette	✓	✓
Central locking	✓	✓
Power steering	✓	✓
Electric windows	✓	✓
Electric aerial	✓	✓
Alloy wheels	✓	✓
Four wheel drive		✓
Air conditioning		✓
Ltd slip diff		✓

now expected of Toyota. Other manufacturers simply don't give you as much for your money.

Act Now.

This offer must end on October 31st, 1991. For the name of your nearest Toyota dealer, just call 0420 22607.

But do it now. Celicas go fast.

To: Toyota Information Service, PO Box 30, Alton, Hants GU34 4PX. Please send me more information. Celica ☐ Toyota Saloons ☐ Sports ☐ Specialist ☐ Please contact me to arrange a test drive. ☐ T4/10

Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Daytime 'phone no: _____

Current car _____

Model _____ Reg. letter _____

Intended replacement date: Month _____ Year _____

TOYOTA CELICA

*Prices include number plates, delivery charge of £298 (inc. VAT) and road fund licence. Model illustrated Celica GT. Offer applies to all Celicas bought and registered between October 1st and October 31st 1991. All finance offers are subject to status. Written quotations available upon request. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. **See dealer for details. Toyota (GB) Ltd., The Quadrangle, Redhill, Surrey RH1 1PX.

Leaner Nato must be fitter says think tank

by MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A REDUCED Nato military presence in Germany will be "far from credible" unless intelligence-gathering and logistics improve dramatically, say the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

With no proposing to cut the number of army corps in Germany from eight to five, troops will have to cover a much wider area, a report by the institute said yesterday. Essential requirements for the new force structures would include intelligence collection over a wider area and an expanded in-flight refuelling capability. Concealment and deception would also become more important.

Unless these problems are faced, Nato's reduced military posture will be far from credible and a lack of credibility can only threaten Nato's continued existence," the report said. Without powerful mobility and highly sophisticated command and control infrastructure, European security and defence would be threatened.

In an annual review of the world's military balance, the institute said that one British armoured division staying in Germany under Nato plans would have to be maintained at war strength to be a credible

part of the proposed rapid reaction corps. The report noted that spending on ammunition in the Gulf war was well above the rate envisaged for a European land battle, and that the ground offensive against Iraq lasted only 100 hours. It said the Gulf conflict also underlined a need for stronger European forces than the lightly armed, quick reaction, airborne units usually deployed to trouble spots.

A review of the Soviet Union's strategic weapons arsenal showed that the deployment of rail-mobile SS24 and road-mobile SS25 missiles had continued in the past 12 months, although production of the ten-warhead SS24 stopped in January. At that time 36 launchers had been mounted on 12 trains, deployed at three sites. A further 54 SS24s had been deployed in former SS19 silos.

The institute estimated that about 300 of the single-warhead SS25s had been deployed, adding: "It is reliably claimed that follow-ons to both SS24 and SS25 are under development." Although the number of SS18s, the huge silo-based missiles, remained at 308, more had been modernised with the ten-warhead Model 5 and a new single-warhead Model 6.

President Bush proposed last week to work towards the elimination of all land-based, multiple-warhead missiles. The report said that no new Soviet nuclear-powered submarines had been brought into service, although the seventh Delta IV strategic submarine had been launched. Three new types of submarine-launched ballistic missiles were reported to be under development and the Typhoon class strategic submarine was being modified to take one of these, IJSS said.

● *The Military Balance 1991-1992*, IJSS, Brassey's £39.95.



Setting their sights high: Ivan Silayev, left, chairman of the Russian economic committee, leaning backwards to catch a glimpse of the rocket launch at Baikonur as the president of Kazakhstan, Nazarbayev Nursultan,

also follows the take-off. An Austrian is a member of the crew. The space centre in the Kazakhstan desert has been struggling financially, but yesterday 12 Soviet republics agreed in principle that they should jointly pay

for the upkeep of base. The move followed the landmark economic treaty signed on Wednesday by leaders of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Byelorussia, according to Tass yesterday.

Patriarch leaves succession hitch

From ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

DIMITRIOS, the ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople and first among equals of the Autocephalous church leaders of the Orthodox world, died in Istanbul, the city of his birth on Wednesday night, aged 77, after suffering a heart attack earlier in the week.

His body lay in state yesterday in St George's, the Patriarch church, just above the Golden Horn, where it was attended by 13 metropolitans who will elect a successor after the funeral on Tuesday.

According to Turkish law, they will be choosing a leader simply for the fast-dwindling Greek population of Turkey, who now number no more than 3,000 people. According to their own traditions, however, the synod of metropolitans will also be choosing the spiritual head of the 250 million Orthodox community - a position enjoyed by the patriarch since the split with Rome in 1054.

It is this potential authority of what, in Turkey, is referred to as the phanar patriarchy, which accounts for the suspicion with which it is held out only by the Turks but even rival orthodoxes. Since, however, Mehmet the Conqueror appointed Gennadios Scholarios patriarch after the Turks took Constantinople in 1453, subsequent holders of the office have been obliged to live in symbiosis with the Turkish authorities, who even today maintain the right to vet the list from which new candidates are chosen.

Any sympathy between church and state ended after the Turkish War of Independence in 1923, fought against invading Greek armies.

It is a residual fear of some Turkish officials that the patriarch is an instrument of Greek foreign policy or that it will fall prey to the orthodox anti-Turkish lobbies in Washington. When Dimitrios, who with the reputation of a simple and pious man was chosen in 1972, it was precisely because the Turkish government were determined to exclude the more active Meliton, Metropolitan of Chalcedon (an area now part of Istanbul called Kadikoy). It remains to be seen whether the current Metropolitan of Chalcedon, Bartholomew, who is the unanimously elected head of the synod and an obvious choice, will be elected patriarch.

Obituaries, page 18

Saddam executes officers

British officers have been executed in a series of hangings in Iraq. The executions were carried out by the Iraqi government, which has been accused of human rights abuses. The officers were reportedly executed for alleged involvement in the Gulf War.

The executions were carried out in a public square in Baghdad. The officers were hanged from gallows. The Iraqi government has denied any involvement in the executions.

The officers were reportedly executed for alleged involvement in the Gulf War. The Iraqi government has denied any involvement in the executions.

The officers were hanged from gallows. The Iraqi government has denied any involvement in the executions.

The officers were reportedly executed for alleged involvement in the Gulf War. The Iraqi government has denied any involvement in the executions.

The officers were hanged from gallows. The Iraqi government has denied any involvement in the executions.

The officers were reportedly executed for alleged involvement in the Gulf War. The Iraqi government has denied any involvement in the executions.

The officers were hanged from gallows. The Iraqi government has denied any involvement in the executions.

The officers were reportedly executed for alleged involvement in the Gulf War. The Iraqi government has denied any involvement in the executions.

The officers were hanged from gallows. The Iraqi government has denied any involvement in the executions.

The officers were reportedly executed for alleged involvement in the Gulf War. The Iraqi government has denied any involvement in the executions.

The officers were hanged from gallows. The Iraqi government has denied any involvement in the executions.

Warning of unrest as hunger grows in St Petersburg

The five million people of St Petersburg are facing food shortages at a level not seen since the German siege, Charles Bremner writes

While Boris Yeltsin and the leaders of the former Soviet republics wrangle about economic "space", unions and ethnic strife, Sergei Pokrovsky is worrying about how he will get his people through the winter - all five million of them.

The people of St Petersburg are facing the possibility of food shortages on a level not seen since the famine inflicted by the German siege and the days after the second world war. Mr Pokrovsky, a reforming communist and former factory boss, was appointed by Anatoli Sobchak, the mayor, to the daunting task of ensuring food supplies. "We will get to the end of 1991 all right," he says, sitting in his vit office in an elegant old house overlooking one of the city's many waterways. "But what happens from January 1 onwards, not even I can say."

St Petersburg which officially shed its former name of Leningrad only this week, is not the worst off among Russian cities. Mr Pokrovsky points out. In the Pskov area, they are restricting food, that most symbolic of aid to Russians, to 300 grammes per day. But the city on the Baltic is facing a tougher time than most because of the collapse of the command economy. At the heart of the country's military industrial complex, the city was supplied with food and raw materials by distant regions. "Now every other region is asking why it should feed St Petersburg," Pokrovsky says. "They don't seem to realise we still need to defend the country."

The halting of so much of the defence industry has contributed heavily to the 30 per cent drop in output of the local economy over the last year. Anxiety over shortages of rising prices is dampening the surge of pride that came with the renaming of

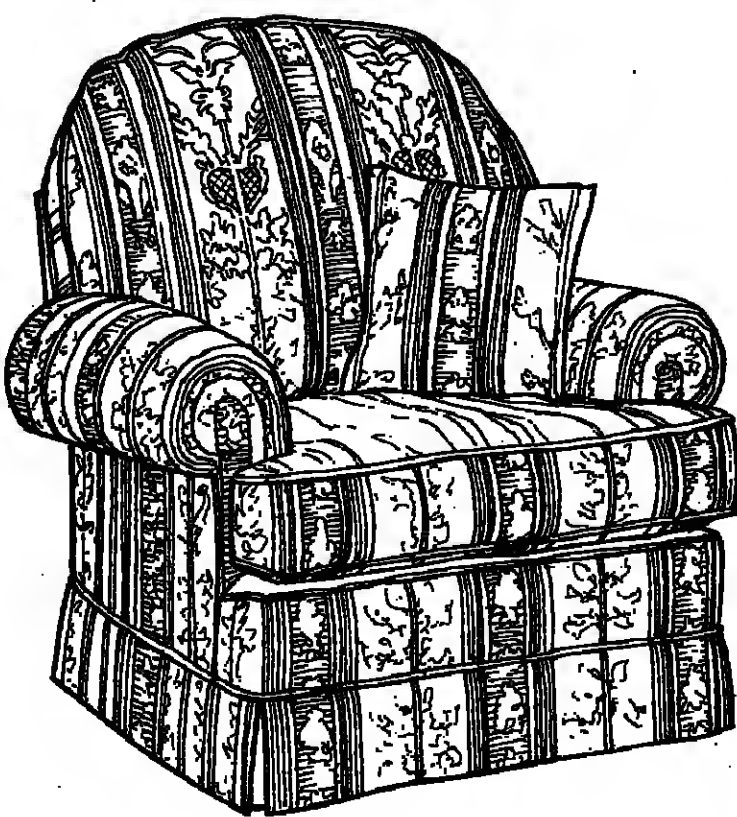
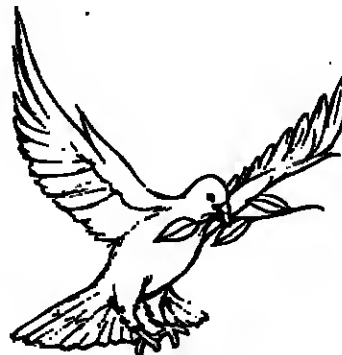
the city and dozens of streets and other objects that were deemed to be tainted by association with the Bolshevik putsch as the once glorious October revolution is now called. City officials talk openly of the possibility of civil unrest. Mr Pokrovsky says hunger and cold could spark a social "explosion."

Sugar, flour, butter, cereals, meat, eggs and cheese are all rationed through a coupon system. Much of the time they are not available anyway. Huge queues huddle in the autumn cold outside the shabby state shops. The poverty of the state shops contrasts with the bright and expensive abundance in the private stores sprouting up around the city.

The West is rushing aid to the area. More than 35,000 tons of food, medical supplies and clothing have already been sent from the United States and Europe. It is hard, says Mr Pokrovsky, for the proud people of Russia's cultural capital to accept the idea of handouts. He believes future aid should be sold and the money used to help improve the economy.

Salvation will come when the city manages to get the new market moving, say local officials. Not much will change until the Russian government takes decisions on how to break up the vast state holdings of farmland and to sell off the shops and industries.

In the longer term, St Petersburg hopes to use its "intellectual store-house" and its position as Russia's westward looking window on the Baltic to flourish as the new centre of commercial prosperity. Already the foundations are being laid, somewhat chaotically. In the absence of clear regulations, companies and stock exchanges are springing up all over the city.



The Maples Peace of Mind Guarantee

For the past 150 years, we've been giving our customers the very best in fine quality furniture and it goes without saying that we guarantee good value.

But now, in addition to our usual guarantees, we are offering the ultimate guarantee, a 14 DAY PEACE OF MIND GUARANTEE, to ensure that you can buy with complete confidence.

If for any reason you're not happy with your choice of furniture or carpets, we'll exchange it. It's as simple as that.



OUR SERVICE CHARTER

● **UNBEATABLE PRICE PROMISE** Why shop around when we guarantee the lowest prices? That's a promise backed up by our money back guarantee. If, within 60 days, you prove us wrong, we will refund the difference so you can buy with confidence.

● **FREE DELIVERY** We offer a free nationwide delivery service on beds over £175 and upholstery or dining furniture over £750. For further details of this service just ask one of our representatives in store.

● **FINEST SELECTION OF MERCHANDISE** Our range includes Britain's leading names such as G-Plan, Derwent, VI-Spring and Brintons.

● **HIGHEST STANDARD OF SERVICE** Our staff have a wealth of knowledge and expertise to provide all the help and advice you need.

● **FREE DESIGN CONSULTANCY SERVICE** A dedicated consultant, in selected stores only, is available to visit your home and guide you in making decisions on colour, style and design. Just ask a member of staff.

MAPLES

For the finest collection of top quality furniture and carpets.

BIRMINGHAM · BOURNEMOUTH · CHESTER · EXETER · FRINTON · GUERNSEY · GUILDFORD · HARROGATE · HOVE · JERSEY · KINGSTON · LEEDS · LEICESTER · LINCOLN · PLYMOUTH · SOUTHAMPTON · TORQUAY · WATFORD · WORKING
Also at Waring & Gillow, BRIGHTON · BRISTOL · FOLKESTONE · LANCASTER · MANCHESTER · READING · SOUTHPORT
Coming soon, CARDIFF · OXFORD Tel: 0800 220325 for local store details.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss tells Kate Muir of her influence on a revolutionary piece of legislation

Children will be seen and heard

Off-duty judges are like unopened parcels: it is impossible to guess what will emerge from under the wig. The unveiling of Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, the chairman of the Cleveland enquiry on child abuse and Britain's most senior woman judge, was eagerly awaited. Her reputation in the Court of Appeal is of fairness, politeness and competence. She is polite, but unmerciful to obfuscators. In private, she is a snappy talker and definite in her views. In fact, she would be extremely definite if she did not like a question.

Outside her room in a corridor of *Strictly Private* doors, the judges' names are painted three feet long with curlicues on the wall, an investment only possible with low staff turnover. Inside, there is a small woman in a black jacket and white blouse, and a large black Labrador wearing a red collar. The woman is, as *Who's Who* puts it, the Rt Hon Dame (Ano) Elizabeth (Oldfield) (nee Havers) Butler-Sloss. The dog is Minnie.

'We have ended up with social workers in an impossible position'

Dispelling fear and cutting through stiffness and pedantry are Dame Elizabeth's skills. During her nine years as a High Court judge in the Family Division, she enjoyed the informality possible when children's cases were held in chambers. "It is different from open court - I used to make a point of saying something just to relieve the tension in a very fraught child case." She shows a natural interest in the Children Act, which comes into force on October 14.

The act brings together a legal soup of measures relating to children in public and private law and covered by different courts, and puts them in one place, backed by a simple philosophy: the child is paramount. In theory, the act will end night-raids by social workers, "mug-of-love" babies, and keep children, if possible, in the most sensible place for them - at home with their parents. In practice, anything may happen.

Dame Elizabeth considers it a great step forward. She believes the new act, which was seven years in the making, was influenced by the Cleveland report. As though giving a complicated judgment, she identifies four strands of influence, the first being the realisation that although there is a great deal of sexual abuse, professionals must take time to identify it.

The second is "recognising a child is a person, and not a package. Children can't be picked up at 7 o'clock in the morning and deposited somewhere else just like that. They are entitled to be consulted to see whether this is the best option for them." Recognition of the importance of family is the third lesson learnt - parents are entitled

to be consulted. "Even a dreadful family at least deserves to be involved in the discussion."

The final point is the interdisciplinary approach of the Children Act: social workers, doctors, police officers and magistrates will meet in committees at child care centres - courts with special family law responsibilities - for regular discussions. "The most extraordinary thing about Cleveland, which almost more than anything else depressed me, was that the director of social services and his deputy met the chief constable and his deputy, identified the problems, recognised it was very difficult, then never met again. The whole thing was an object lesson in failed relationships, and that was among the professionals, not the families."

Despite the fact that the Children Act is a whole new set of rules, some are more about curtailing the law than using it. Judges can decide not to make an order at all even if

parents or the local authority ask for one, if doing nothing is in the interest of the child. "It's totally revolutionary," says Dame Elizabeth, slamming down her tea cup, clearly excited. "It's wonderful. In future parents can make arrangements for child custody themselves with their lawyer and just inform the court of their decision. It will eliminate the 'winner' getting custody and the 'loser' getting access."

The act also has a proviso to prevent delay in hearing cases, which may cause the child unnecessary suffering. "I mean no act of Parliament has ever written in that delay is detrimental. It's a marvellous step forward."

The act is consistent with the Conservative philosophy of the active citizen and community care, putting the onus on the individual rather than a nanny state. Dame Elizabeth should know that: one of her first acts as a young and newly-married barrister was to stand as the Tory candidate in the previously Labour-held seat of Lambeth, Vauxhall in 1959. She lost, but was the cause of much celebrity when it was discovered that her first child was due to be born on election day. Fortunately, he arrived a week late.

She married another young barrister, now the retired judge Joseph Butler-Sloss in 1958, and they have three grown-up children. "One of whom is still living with me," she says, resignedly. Her legal pedigree points to fame. Her father was Sir Cecil Havers, the judge who sentenced Ruth Ellis to death, and her brother is Sir Michael Havers, QC, the former Lord Chancellor. The Butler-Sloss family has a flat in the Temple opposite the law courts, and a house in Devon, where Dame Elizabeth spends weekends working



Lord Justice Butler-Sloss: she believes a child should be recognised as "a person not a package"

on cases and walking the dog. The life of an Appeal judge is conducted largely on paper, in contrast to Family work. They spend only four days a week in court, the last is a reading day. "We read for the future and write for the past." She is busy-eyed. "You couldn't think your money's wasted."

Absolutely not. Now she works on a bench of three and says, with delight, that she no longer makes decisions, since they are either unanimous or two to one. But, with respect, didn't Dame Elizabeth, who admits that she is indiscreet, find that rather hard? She smiles benignly. "I had to come to terms with it a bit." Now, she is all praise. The Appeal Court is the most fascinating thing she has ever done. As the youngest judge, and the only woman out of 16 Appeal judges, she must also be shaking their traditions up a little.

The Children Act has also done a bit of shaking up, going where no act has gone before. Senior members of the judiciary, including the Lord Chancellor, attended evening semi-

nars on it, and were lectured by academics, paediatricians and child psychiatrists. The training aspect permeated right down to social workers, who deal with cases at the first instance.

Dame Elizabeth feels social workers generally have taken too much of the rap for various child deaths from battering and for controversy over sexual abuse, and this has made them sensitive and unsure of their position. "We have ended up with social workers in an impossible position: if they take action they're in trouble and if they don't take action, they're in trouble." She says the very existence of these opposite reactions shows the intensity and subtlety of the problem.

With that in mind, the Children Act will for the first time allow children to be fully consulted on their futures if old enough. "I can believe a sensible eight-year-old can give a more valuable account of his views sometimes than an emotional teen-

ager of 14 or 15," Dame Elizabeth says. In addition, a guardian *ad litem* will usually be appointed to put the child's case in court, a buffer between the social services and the family. Of course, this costs money which local authorities can hardly afford. Dame Elizabeth puts it more subtly: "There are resource implications here which must be overcome."

If they are overcome, it will result, along with the other changes in the act, in a new style of court case, less adversarial and more about compromise. Dame Elizabeth already sees the seeds of that, and says Family judges are increasingly hearing the evidence they want to hear and stopping counsel who stray far from the point or too deeply into irrelevant marital infidelities. "There's not much law as such in the Family Division. We're looking at how people behave. We're looking at emotions... and if certain facts show the risks are such that children should go home to their parents, then you're not worried about the law at all."

When men fall from the keib

Sleaze, danger and the temptation of a new partner can prove irresistible

WITH the resignation of the Director of Public Prosecutions for allegedly keib-crawling in one of London's grimmer red-light zones, we are confronted by several paradoxes about modern male sexual pathology. What sort of men do it? Why do they do it? And why do they resort to what must be one of the most cold-blooded and abbreviated forms of sexual contact?

We know that men have found a use for prostitution, and women have satisfied their demands, since before the Greek *hetaira* or temple prostitutes. Few societies have seen women require a similar widespread service from men. The argument is not without flaw, but perhaps something in men has always enjoyed mingling sex and money. Money is power. Men who pay are in control, or believe they are. Paying avoids the necessity of using speech, wit or charm to compete with other males for access to willing females. Some men using prostitutes undoubtedly lack those social skills required for dating and mating.

However, there has always been a group of desirable, successful, powerful men who seem fatally drawn to the potentially scandalous attractions of the street walker. William Ewart Gladstone devoted one tenth of his income and four nights out of seven scouring the streets of the capital waiting to be accosted by prostitutes in order, he alleged, to rescue them. As Henry Labouchere MP commented, he only managed to "rescue the pick of the lovelies". For those who say Gladstone was just a rather high-powered Victorian social worker, it is noteworthy he felt compelled to flagellate himself in the bathroom most nights upon returning home.

But today's "pick of the lovelies", with all respect to the "away-day" girls from Leicester, Newcastle, Manchester and Scotland who patrol King's Cross, are not to be found around a railway terminus. Very often some of the poorest, most unstable women in the land are found prostituting themselves, on this "blighted" redevelopment plot for small sums of money in order to raise cash for drugs. Part of the male motivation, therefore, might well include the very sleaziness of the transaction. This would also fit into a difficult-to-define area termed the "novelty effect" by behavioural psychologists.

"Beauty," George Bernard Shaw said, "is all very well, but whoever looks at it when it has been in the house three days" it is also well documented, for instance, that a majority of normal men would accept an invitation to an orgy with a group of strangers, whereas a majority of women say they would decline. Impersonal sex may

be said to appeal to men because it is hot new and taboo. When men animals (whether rats or monkeys) copulate, their libido seems to depend on this "blumbus" or novelty effect. Experiments with rats have demonstrated that "sexual behaviour was 15 times more frequent during the initial period (encounter than in any subsequent period... If the female is then removed and placed by another, the full vigour of the male is restored and the rate of coitus immediately elevated to the earlier high level (Wilson and Nias, *Love's Myths*). And



Temptation in the roadside

although men are not rats, sometimes it might be felt we copy aspects of their behaviour.

Certainly the rate of human marital intercourse declines after the honeymoon phase. According to Anne Lawrence (*Adultery* 1990) some 60 per cent of married men have had at least one affair by the age of 40, which seems to suggest we find a pallid need to secure replacement sex partners simply with the passage of time.

Of course, respectable and powerful men may be caught with their trousers down precisely because they are imperfectly aware of this inner drives. After all, why opt for patrol King's Cross, street sex? Every phone box in central London offers, on average, advertisements from 30 call-girls willing to make appointments relative comfort and safety. Up-market beddles exist. The problem may boil down to the way society refuses to accommodate polymorphous male sexuality into its respectable structures. A man who is a public figure cannot afford sexual scandal. Such a man cannot trust phone lines and courtesans - they might talk. Yet it is as vulnerable as the rest of us to the desire for what you might call "raucous spice". In fact more so, since the greater the proscription, the greater the attraction. Hence the appeal of anonymous and dangerous encounters leading to low-fall, Hince, Sir Allan Green will not be the last.

PHILLIP HOISON



Muscling in: Ultimate Warrior in fighting mood

Whatever happened to wrestlers like Mick McManus and Jackie Pallo? What have grannies been doing on Saturday afternoons since ITV decided in 1988 that old ladies preferred staring at indoor bowls to watching two men grunt in a pre-rehearsed rumba that ended with one or both fighters flat on the canvas (preferably both), one or both fighters being booed by the crowd (preferably both), and one or both of the fighters' managers wearing the referee through the ropes like a pretzel and then slapping him up and down like they do in TV cartoons (preferably Tom and Jerry)? Where have those genteel days gone?

Last night, London's Royal Albert Hall hosted the start of a European tour by a new breed of wrestler. Most are American. They have wild and crazy names like Big Boss Man, The Berserker, Ravishing Rick Rude and the Ultimate Warrior. They have somehow captured the minds of Britain's eight-to-14-year-olds.

McManus and Pallo could buy their suits off-the-peg in

Burtons. These new wrestlers look like they were fed on steroids from birth. Some look like Cyril Smith, only twice as tall. And the Giant is 7ft 4in high and weighs 38st. Their outfits seem to come from fancy dress rental shops. They jump and scream like you and I might do only if we had swallowed several illegal drugs before entering the ring. They all belong to a privately-run travelling troupe of grapplers called the World Wrestling Federation, whose initials just happen to match those of the World Wildlife Fund. And they all much prefer showbiz to playing the Shoreditch Palais, although the quality of their acting makes even Zsa Zsa Gabor look like a very serious Oscar contender. The most famous among them, Hulk Hogan, the world champion, already appears in Hollywood movies.

Last night's fixture was a rather specialised bout known as the Battle Royal. Behaving even more barmily than is

They've got a hold on us

With a well rehearsed grunt, American professional wrestling has our youngsters in its monstrous grip

usual for them, all 20 wrestlers on the tour climbed into the ring at the same time. Not because they were homesick and looking for company, but because the idea of a Battle Royal is to hurl all your rivals out of the ring. The last man left is declared the winner.

You might have thought this was an uncommon taste in entertainment. But when 12,000 tickets for tonight's event at Wembley Arena went on sale in August, they disappeared within 56 minutes. It was the fastest sellout ever for that venue, which has also been used by Madonna and New Kids on the Block. The remaining two British performances, in Sheffield and Birmingham, sold out in three hours. Then the boys are off to Barcelona, Paris and finally

Brussels, possibly to show EC diplomats how to settle policy differences with the aid of leopards and the use of the Albert Hall's wrestling ring for a Battle Royal.

This new wrestling mania has flourished in the dark, like mushrooms. It can only be seen on satellite television, although BSkyB, which broadcasts WWF bouts (no, not staged tussles between endangered species of okapi), relies on them for some of its top ratings. The WWF magazine sells 200,000 copies a month in Britain. Merchandising brings in £12 million a year in this country. Children are cleaning out toy shops of Hulk Hogan dolls, t-shirts, shoulder-pads and watches the way they used to empty them of Teenage Mu-

tant Hero Turtles. WWF videos are hogging high positions in the video sales charts.

"In America," according to a British spokesman for Harvey Goldsmith, which is promoting the tour, "this type of wrestling is the most popular and successful live entertainment. Bigger than pop concerts, bigger than any sport." Television audiences are huge.

"When I was a kid, me and my friends wanted to be footballers. Now they want to be wrestlers. I've heard many stories of parents in Britain having their furniture ruined by kids doing running power slams over the sofa."

You might think that any child caught doing a running power slam over a sofa would be taught a little self-control and sent to bed with something improving to read, like a former Social Democrat's memoirs. But half the audience at Wembley tonight will be indulgent parrots chaperoning their eight-to-14-

year-olds. Some probably also enjoy the spectacle, which always ends a "good man", say Hulk Hogan, against a "bad man", such as Jake The Snake. Nobody dies in the ring. Some crack a rib, or dislocate a shoulder, fough not MPerfect, who boasts: "I have no flaws. I'm ric and I'm good-looking. Women love to follow me."

The helpful tour spokesman explains that the wrestlers pick a stage name, just in case you thought someone had christened his son Legon of Doom or Macho King andy Savage. "Obviously," he adds, "the persona has to match the way the wrestler looks, feels, and likes to perform." For example, when the British Bulldog enters the ring, *Land of Hope and Glory* is laid over the speakers, he has Union Jacks on his tights, he wears red, white and blue beads in his ringlets, and he is accompanied by a bulldog called Winston.

But what about Justy Rhode? Does he cost on stage carrying a yellow uster and a can of furniture polish?

JOE JOEPH

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST
ON VIDEO



One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest/Cert 18/£10.99.

Winner of five Oscars, this classic film stars Jack Nicholson whose feigned insanity in an institution has devastating repercussions. From the Premier Collection which also includes the epic productions "Amadeus" and "The Killing Fields".

WH SMITH
More to discover

GALLERIES: LONDON

Face to face, by royal appointment

Richard Cork marvels at the Queen's illustrious collection of paintings, now on temporary loan to the National Gallery

Windowless and chilling, the empty off-white walls of the temporary exhibition rooms in the National Gallery's Sainsbury Wing looked utterly uninviting when they were unveiled this summer. How could these clinical chambers possibly provide an appropriate setting for the first loan exhibition to be staged there, which is the largest selection of paintings from the Queen's collection shown outside the royal palaces for nearly half a century?

Now that The Queen's Pictures: Royal Collections through the Centuries has opened (see details, right), the answer is, miraculously, surprisingly. I still think the National Gallery was perverse to place these rooms in the dungeon-like basement of the Sainsbury Wing and limit the space to six rooms which will never be capable of housing a show in the Royal Academy scale. But my fears about their bleakness soon dropped away in the exhibition itself. Although they are close, hung, and sometimes even displayed above doorways to suggest how they might have been positioned in a real residence, most of the pictures look marvellous. The walls are now painted a variety of colours, ranging from pale mustard to the deepest of maroons, and their warmth is hugely enticing. So is the lighting, which does full justice to the many canvases recently transformed by an energetic cleaning programme.

A glossal panoramic painting of Henry VIII's family dominates the first room, its gilded lustre newly disclosed. The monarch, encased on his extravagantly ornate throne, places a proprietorial hand on the shoulder of his lashed son Edward. Jane Seymour and his two daughters are also included, their haughty reinforcing his glacial authority. Not even the king's jester Will Somers, who hovers in a nearby doorway with a monkey clutching his head, can alleviate the air of oppressive power.

But this despotic patriarch was also an enlightened patron, responsible for laying the royal collection's foundations. The anonymous artist who painted the family group struggled, without much success, to emulate the brilliance of Holbein, who had died far too young about two years before, after sighing at the revolutionising

British art. Holbein's most commanding full-length portrait of Henry was destroyed in the Whitehall Palace fire of 1698, and his only surviving likeness of the monarch now belongs to the Thyssen collection. But the present show does contain his consummate portrait of Derich Born, a young German merchant in London's Steelyard community. Holbein's virtuoso brushwork encompasses both the brittle detail of Born's embroidered collar and the smooth, glowing fig leaves half-submerged in shadow behind. The sitter emerges with uncanny directness and conviction, while the Latin inscription testifies to the image's verisimilitude: "Here is Derich: Add voice and you might doubt if the painter or his father created him."

After Holbein's death, royal patronage retreated from Renaissance realism and embraced a far more orchidaceous alternative. Gheeraert's fantastically attired woman, swathed in gossamer drapes festooned with flowers, is as pale as a phantom. She sways unsteadily towards the stag beside her, and seems to inhabit a dream region unconnected with the world defined by Holbein.

Only with Charles I does the collection reassert involvement with European painting at its finest. By the time Van Dyck completed "The Great Peacock", a monumental family group with the king, Henrietta Maria and two children, Charles's commission was renowned throughout Europe. Less than a century separates this canvas from the Henry VIII group, but the difference between them is astonishing. Tudor stiffness gives way to informality, with a pet dog pawing at the queen's dress. While retaining his regal dignity, Charles allows his left hand to hang limply. He looks vulnerable as well as commanding, and a later, double portrait by Van Dyck sums up the elegant spirit of Charles's court. Thomas Killigrew and his brother-in-law both appear to be brooding over the recent death of Killigrew's wife. A broken column symbolises her loss, and the sorrowing Killigrew is unable to concentrate on his companion's attempt to show him a sheet of paper. Charles's taste was not confined to his court painter's refined melancholy, with its strange intimations of the monarch's fate. Rubens was just as much of a favourite, and



Dark spirits summed up: Van Dyck's portrait of Thomas Killigrew and his brother-in-law, brooding over the death of Killigrew's wife

his robust landscapes project an earthy dynamism which Van Dyck lacks. Even when Rubens indulges in a fanciful version of *Saint George and the Dragon*, with Charles as the armour-clad hero rescuing Henrietta Maria, he sets the whole caprice in a vigorously handled English landscape with Southwark Cathedral identifiable beyond.

The full extent of Charles's collecting prowess can no longer be represented. Many of the 1,500 works he amassed were sold after his death by Cromwell's Commonwealth. Leonardo, Titian, Raphael and Dürer paintings were among the masterpieces lost to continental buyers, never to return. They now adorn the Louvre, the Prado and so on, and Charles II's attempts to rebuild his father's legendary holdings met with limited success. Even so, some powerful works were rescued. They include Bassano's muscular *Adoration of the Shepherds*, Tintoretto's turbulent *Esther before Ahasuerus* and a

splendidly flamboyant exercise in self-pity by Allori, who portrayed himself as the decapitated head of Holofernes and his wife Maria as the exultant Judith holding her gory trophy by the hair.

So unexpected collector appears in the 18th century: Frederick, Prince of Wales, the son of George II, who enjoyed a wholehearted love of painting. But the authorship of his most spectacular purchases, Rubens's panoramic landscape of *Summer* and its counterpart *Winter*, is disputed. Besides, Frederick's purchasing was sooo overshadowed by that of George III and, far more voraciously, his spendthrift heir. Specialising in bulk-buying, George III bought an immense collection of Venetian art formed by Consul Joseph Smith. It included over 40 Canaletto's, most notably some bracing early works without a trace of the neat predictability which mars so much of his later production.

The great coup was, however, Vermeer's *A Lady at the Virginals*, a cool and pellucid interior which Consul Smith had attributed to van Meier. Vermeer's oblique and measured view of love makes a fascinating contrast with another outstanding Dutch picture, Steen's exquisite *A Woman at her Toilet*. For the figure pulling on her stocking with an expectant glance at the open door is a prostitute. A skull and weeping cherub are among the symbols referring to transience and mortality, but this sensuously handled woman retains her beckoning good humour intact.

George IV bought the Steen, and he commissioned Lawrence to paint an outstandingly sumptuous yet humane portrait of Pope Pius VII. But the staggering amount of money he expended on art did not yield a collection worthy to be set beside Charles I's. As for Victoria, the exhibition says when it comes round to her purchases. However well-regarded Waterhouse, Landseer, Frith and MacLise were in

their day, they compare poorly with the top-flight acquisitions of earlier royal collectors.

The nadir is reached with Tuxen's *The Family of Queen Victoria in 1837*, a saccharine gathering at Windsor which bears a numbing resemblance to a blown-up colour photograph. This anodyne Danish flatterer threatens to bring the show to a bathetic close, but Prince Albert's old-master purchases save the day. Buylog at a time when early Italian art was undervalued, he secured a superb Duccio triptych for a tenth of the money his wife lavished on Frith's *Ramsgate Sands*.

Seeing this splendid show in the Sainsbury Wing made me wish, as I left, that it could be made available to us on a permanent basis. Or will we have to wait another 50 years before a comparable array of regal treasures is exhibited again?

Richard Cork has been appointed art critic of The Times. John Russell Taylor will continue to write regularly for this page.

CRITIC'S CHOICE: GALLERIES

THE QUEEN'S PICTURES See review (left). National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (071-839 3321). Daily 10am-5pm, until January 19. 24 (cont.)

WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY Brendan Neiland has derived many striking images from reflections on the glass walls of modern city blocks. More of the same here, but also gloriously untrammelled skyscrapers above Dartmoor.

TSUGUMI Ota Lyndall Foyer, National Theatre, SE1 (071-833 0880). Mon-Fri 10am-11pm, until October 12.

WATER WORKS The regular mixed exhibitions for members of the Royal Watercolour Society notch up their 314th edition. The show, while still on the conservative side, reveals an admirable variety of material. Featured artist is John Ward.

ROYAL WATERCOLOUR SOCIETY Autumn Exhibition Bankside Gallery, 48 Hogon Street, SE1 (071-928 7521). Tues 10am-8pm, Wed-Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 1-5pm, until November 3.

COLOUR WASHED While Villard is installed in Glasgow, his great friend and colleague Bonnard has a small but spectacular showing in London. A few paintings, but particularly strong on drawings, which show that this colourist could express himself brilliantly with a little basic black.

PIERRE BONNARD JPI Fine Arts, 26 Davies Street, W1 (071-493 2830). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, until December 6.

ROOFSCAPE Richard Diebenkorn has been most famous since he settled in Santa Monica for his Ocean Park paintings: pale abstractions vividly evoking the geometrical roofs and smog-diffused light of southern California.

Richard Diebenkorn Whitechapel Art Gallery, Whitechapel High Street, E1 (071-377 0107). Tues-Sun 11am-5pm (Wed to 8pm), until December 1.

DREAMTIME If any one designer invented the Fifties look, it was Piero Fornasetti. His graphic designs on ceramics and masonite still know today how to glitter and be gay.

Fornasetti Design at Dreams V&A, Cromwell Road, SW7 (071-938 8361). Mon-Sat 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2.30-5.50pm, until January 19.

ITALIAN VIEW The painter/engraver Edoardo Chiosso lived in Japan from 1875 to 1898 as adviser to the Royal Mint. He collected a staggering 15,000 prints, scrolls and paintings: these 200 finest are an eye-opener.

An Italian in Japan Accademia Italiana, 24 Rutland Gate, SW7 (071-225 3474). Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm (Wed to 8), Sun 2-5.30pm, until Nov 24.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

ARTS REVIEWS

Theatre, Dance and Concert

Page 20

RECORDS: ROCK

Able and ever-willing

IS THE world ready for another 65 minutes of music celebrating the irrepressible libid of Prince Rogers Nelson? If not, tough, because even on the light-hearted "Sundin", one of the most innocuous songs on *Diamonds and Pearls*, the lad ends up sniggering at "some dirty machine", while there is not even the flimsiest veil of innuendo to protect the innocent from the juvenile braggadocio of "Insubstantial". "Gett Off" and "Cream" (is this an old R&B tune?) The message is clear: Prince does it a lot and he would like to do it with you, please.

Actually, the album is not all about sex. One song is about money, and the title track concerns love. Prince's latest group of playmates, the New Power Generation, have steered him good in the direction of rap, and so "Jughead", the Generation's "lead rapper" Tom M. churns out an imperious spiel in a vaguely Public Enemy vein, which sounds almost as if it belongs to somebody else's album.

Prince & The New Power Generation: *Diamonds and Pearls* (Paisley Park 7598-253792-2)

Bryan Adams: *Walking on the Neighbours* (A&M 397 164-2)

For the most part, Prince himself is in squeaky falsetto mode, peppering songs such as "Walk Don't Walk" with intricately layered harmonies to create his unique style of barbershop soul. Ever the genre-bender, he fits from the metallic guitar soloing at the end of "Thunder" to the township live inflections of "Willing and Able" with energetic ease.

A mercurial and narcissistic collection, *Diamonds and Pearls* is streets ahead of the pneumatic monotony of the *Graffiti Bridge* and *Batman* soundtracks, even if it does not scale the twin peaks of ecstasy achieved with his *Lovesexy* and *Sign o' the Times*.

THERE has always been a rather calculating quality to Bryan Adams' clean-cut, gang-bro rock 'n' roll, but in the past he has injected real

emotion and a pleasing boy-next-door personality into such rabble-rousing anthems as "Summer of '69" and "It's Only Love". However, with *Walking on the Neighbours*, he has sculpted an album of such finely-tuned blockbuster rock that it simply sounds like a cynical exercise in pushing the right buttons.

Producer Matt Lange must shoulder a share of the responsibility for this. Renowned for his commercial ear and stringent quality control, Lange (who produced the last two multi-million selling Def Leppard albums) takes a co-writer credit on every track. The result is a succession of muscled-bound rockers and ballads that are nearly all much too neatly styled for comfort.

Incidentally, now that the album is available, one wonders who can possibly still be buying enough copies of "(Everything I do) I Do It for You" to keep it at No 1 for the thirteenth successive week. Whoever they are, would they please stop?

DAVID SINCLAIR



Prince: seemingly insatiable on *Diamonds and Pearls*

RECORDS: JAZZ

High Cs for two, done to a T

FOR a trumpeter, there can be few more stringent tests than playing duets with a pianist. Hitting a string of top Cs in front of a big band is daunting enough; performing without the safety net of a rhythm section demands a rare combination of precise intonation, a keen ear and a sense of drama. No wonder so few players try their hand at it.

That under-rated soloist, Digby Fairweather, passes with distinction in half a dozen tracks with Stan Barker, a sensitive player steeped in the unobtrusive lyricism of Dave McKenna. As for Fairweather, the highest compliment that can be paid is that there are moments - on "Lover Man" and the feathery "Mood Indigo" - when he could almost be mistaken for Ruby Braff. Some listeners might even prefer his more sparing use of embellishment.

The remainder of this compilation consists of accomplished small-group jazz, performed by a supporting cast that includes Brian Lemon and Denny Wright. This brand of infectious mainstream jazz can be heard

Digby Fairweather: *A Portrait of Digby Fairweather* (Black Lion BLD-780505)

Johnny Hodges & His Orchestra: *Used To Be Duke* (Verve 848394)

weekly at the 100 Club, and we need to take it far granted. After countless cover versions, "Cherokee" resists any fresh interpretation, but Fairweather's jaunty original "Going Out Steppin'" is a worthy addition to the repertoire.

There are only a handful of

saxophonists who can be recognised in the space of two or three notes. The rich, velvet alto of Johnny Hodges belongs, indisputably, in that select company. The ultimate Ellington sideman, he broke away to pursue a solo career in 1951 before returning to

the fold four years later. Used To Be Duke is fairly typical of Hodges's solo phase, rich in hard-driving blues-based arrangements, yet with a residue of Ellington's worldly sensibility. Hodges was a peerless ballad player. Here he luxuriates in an epic melody which winds its way from "Autumn in New York" to "All of Me". Sheer bliss.

CLIVE DAVIS



THE ART NEWSPAPER

October issue out now at major newsstands and bookshops

Subscribe now for fast, regular delivery
UK/Europe: £25 Elsewhere: £29
Call (0732) 770 823 or Fax (0732) 361 708
N. America: \$48/CDN \$52.43
Call: Freeline 1-800-363-1310
Major credit cards accepted

● AC/DC's show in Moscow last Saturday is likely to go down in history as the biggest rock concert ever staged. Conservative estimates put the size of the audience at half a million, but according to MTV, which filmed the gig, the figure was between 800,000 and one million.

Thirty thousand Soviet militia men patrolled the event, which also featured Metallica, The Black Crowes, Pantera and USSR hopefuls E.S.T. (Electric Shock Treatment). The largest audience previously assembled for a rock concert was at Watkins Glen, New York State, in 1973 when 600,000 fans turned out to watch The Band, The Grateful Dead and The Allman Brothers Band.

● Seal, whose chart-topping self-titled debut has now sold a

cool half-million in Britain alone, begins his first tour at Empire, Sunderland (091-514 2517) on October 20; Edinburgh Playhouse (031-557 2590) October 22; Empire, Liverpool (051-709 1555) October 28; Apollo, Manchester (061-273 3775) October 24; Wolverhampton Civic Hall (0902 312030) October 29; BIC, Bournemouth (0202 237257) October 27; Hammerstein Odeon, London W8 (081-748 4081) October 28.

● Jimi Hendrix, The Rolling Stones and The Beatles are among many vintage acts to be featured on *Sounds of the Sixties*, a new ten-week television series on BBC 2 starting on Saturday at 8pm. The programme consists of rare archive footage culled from long forgotten programmes such as

Colour me Pop and *A Whole Scene Going*, as well as more obvious clips from early editions of *Top of the Pops*.

● A fine singer, a superlative songwriter and one of a handful of truly original guitar stylists, Richard Thompson has long been one of the overlooked treasures of English rock. Now enjoying an overdue measure of success with his *Rumour and Sigh* album, he announces dates at Glasgow City Hall (041-227 5511) on October 31; Newcastle City Hall (091-281 2806) November 1; Manchester University (081-275 2930) November 2; London Palladium, W1 (071-437 7373) November 8; Birmingham Town Hall (021-236 2820) November 4; Corn Exchange, Cambridge (0223 357861) November 5.

The echo chamber

Prime ministers get lost in the House of Lords, argues John Grigg

Margaret Thatcher prepared the way for herself by reviving, for Harold Macmillan's immediate benefit, the former prime minister's traditional boon of a hereditary earldom. Macmillan had recommended one for his predecessor, Anthony Eden, but after the practice lapsed, with the temporary decision by both parties not to award hereditary peerages.

Disraeli, who of course became Earl of Beaconsfield (insisting, by the way, that he be pronounced Beekonsfield, not Beckonsfield), said after his elevation that he was "dead, but in the Elysian fields". In fact he was still prime minister, and very much alive, when he decided to go to the Lords, and he was there for nearly four years of his final premiership. The next Conservative prime minister, Salisbury, was in the Lords throughout his ministerial career.

As a rule, however, Disraeli's not applies. The Upper House is narcotic rather than dynamic. Former prime ministers and other politicians who go there find it a chamber from which, compared with the Commons, their voices do not resound. An emboldened former minister in the 19th century said that when speaking there he felt like "a corpse addressing a charnel house".

The first Labour prime minister, Ramsay MacDonald, declined a peerage, and Gladstone, though far from radical in most respects, realised that the name "Mr Gladstone" was worth more than any title. So Attlee's acceptance of a hereditary peerage was rather surprising. But he was, at heart, a deeply conventional man, and when he no longer needed to pretend to be egalitarian, he gladly availed himself of all the traditional trappings of success. A limerick he wrote late in life about his career says it all:

For few he was even a starter,
There were many who thought
themselves smarter,
But he ended PM,
CH and OM,
An earl and a Knight of the Garter.

Curiously, perhaps, in this century, as many former Liberal or Labour prime ministers as Conservative ones have accepted peerages. Churchill stayed in the Commons until he was 80, which was pitiable. In the Lords, senile decay goes almost unnoticed.

The most sensational intervention in the Upper House by any former prime minister was that of the elder Pitt, who as Earl of Chatham had a fatal seizure there while protesting against the British surrender in America. Perhaps Macmillan was hoping to achieve a similar theatrical exit when, in extreme old age, he made two mischievous speeches in the Lords at the expense of Mrs Thatcher, thanks to whom he was there. Most former prime ministers, however, have taken their peerages for honour and a quiet life, rather than for the opportunity to extend their parliamentary careers in "another place".

Baldwin imposed on himself the rule, which Mrs Thatcher has hitherto regarded, that he would not "speak to the man at the wheel" or "spit on the deck". Mrs Thatcher might consider following Baldwin's example in another way, too, by including her own name in her title, calling herself Countess Thatcher of Finchley (or Grantham) rather than Countess of Finchley.

Her son, Mark, might advise her to do this for his sake, bearing in mind Hilaire Belloc's cautionary verse:

Lord Finchley tried to mend the electric
Himself. It struck him dead, and serve
him right
It is the business of a wealthy man
To give employment to the artisan.

Philip Bassett reports on the City showdown that will decide the future of Britain's defence industry

GEC sharpens its teeth

In the office of the managing director of one of GEC's constituent companies, the phone rings. The executive who answers snaps to attention, mouthing silently: "It's Arnie."

Arnie - Lord Arnold Weinstock, managing director of the General Electric Company - is making one of his frequent and unannounced lunges into the company's decentralised empire, asking a question, checking a point, making sure everything is all right.

Although the opposition was yesterday accusing GEC of predatory tactics ("culture change" said one) towards an ailing company, Lord Weinstock's interest in British Aerospace may be just such a defensive lunge, though on a grander scale.

Lord Weinstock fell out of political favour during the Thatcher years, being seen as a representative of an old-style of industry which had to be transformed. But GEC's huge strength in the British defence industry, boosted by takeovers of most of

Plessey and a large slice of Ferranti, has meant the government cannot ignore it.

The government's defence purchasing is now running at £20 billion a year and the industry employs nearly 600,000 non-service personnel, spread around parliamentary constituencies across the country. What happens to the defence industry is of vital interest to British politics.

Both BAE and GEC are big players on the broad hinterland that at once divides and joins politics and industry. For Labour in Brighton this week, GEC's interest in BAE is a gift; for the Conservatives in Blackpool next week, it could be a grind.

BAE finds itself with profits sharply down, calling for cash, and leadership following the election of its chairman, Professor Sir Roland Smith, last week. After

the Gulf war, American defence companies are increasingly confident they will win any new orders in the Middle East, which could destroy BAE's chances of tying down the second stage of its large and lucrative Al Yamamah arms programme with Saudi Arabia. Failure to do so would leave BAE desperately short of money, even if its £432 million rights issue is a success.

The prospect that BAE's difficulties could lead to it being snatched up by a foreign defence manufacturer such as Thomson CSF of France is a worrying one for a Conservative government. It is just as bad for Lord Weinstock. BAE is one of GEC's largest customers. Its principal defence subsidiary, Marconi, supplies the electronic systems which are essential for BAE's aircraft. This market could be destroyed if

a foreign defence company took control of BAE.

A takeover by GEC is a possibility, but an unlikely one, at least at first. Lord Weinstock would like to be "invited in" by BAE for talks on which parts of the company GEC might buy.

Though in different businesses, GEC and BAE have some close similarities. Both, for instance, are key players in the development and retention of Britain's high-technology industry.

Lord Weinstock is unlikely to be interested in Rover, having disagreed with BAE's controversial purchase of it three years ago. Car making would not fit in with GEC's broadly based engineering businesses. That might leave Rover in turn open to outside interests, although Honda's ownership of a 20 per cent slice reduces its attractiveness.

Rover's position may also be protected to some extent by the undertakings given at the time of its sale.

A takeover bid would also have the disadvantage under European law of being closely scrutinised by Brussels. Restructuring BAE through joint ventures may be another possibility. GEC already operates with the German electronics giant Siemens, with the US General Electric, and the French train makers Alsthom.

Another strategy would be to become the majority shareholder in a consortium holding a minority stake in BAE. This would ensure an influential position from which to choose the company's future management and divest both Rover and its expensive property acquisition, Arlington.

Whatever happens, Lord

Weinstock will not want to see BAE's core defence business go to someone else - particularly not into foreign control. So the threat of a bid is real, even if its principal purpose is to make more attractive a peaceable arrangement between GEC and BAE.

Whatever is said about Lord Weinstock - and his involvement has attracted criticism - he is one of the most formidable, talented and world-wise men in British industry. A successful liaison between GEC and BAE would keep BAE's defence interests British, even at the expense of breaking up the country's biggest manufacturer, and would secure GEC's core business.

For an industrialist who was marginalised throughout the 1980s, irritating the City and government alike by his "old-style" techniques of building up massive cash reserves and refusing to follow the corporate trend towards endless acquisition and takeover, Lord Weinstock is suddenly making ministers and BAE snap to attention.

Labour's early learning curve

Peter Riddell looks into a crystal ball and imagines the pundits' verdict on Kinnock's first few months in office

Imagine it is October 1992: Labour conference again. Neil Kinnock is rapturously received. He has brought the party out of the wilderness, even though he heads only a minority government. But there are rumblings of discontent.

Labour won a handful more seats than the Tories in a late spring general election, but fell short of an overall majority, with the minority parties holding 50 seats. The Tories did not vote against the Queen's Speech, and Paddy Ashdown's bluff was called. Another election cannot be long delayed.

Party leaders noted the lessons of the Wilson government of March to October 1974, which turned a minority into a majority, just as Edmund Dell remembered in his book *A Hard Pounding*. "The period of the Short Parliament was devoted to the purchase of votes and the elaboration of White Papers. The votes intended to be purchased were those of sections of the electorate who had a definable need that could be satisfied out of the proceeds of our redistributive taxation system. The White Papers were drafted to comfort other sections of the electorate with the assurance that Labour's policies were not as frightening as they had sometimes appeared."

Labour made fewer specific pledges before the 1992 election than in 1972-4. However, spokesmen had offered many untested hopes for a full programme, enough anyway to give Conservative Central Office plenty of ammunition. And new ministers were eager for their bills to be included in the first Queen's Speech. There were measures to scrap the last vestiges of the poll tax and the council tax, to set up a new education standards commission, to reintegrate opt-out hospitals, to move towards a national minimum wage, to create a Scottish parliament (keeping the Liberal Democrats and nationalists from forcing an election), and to introduce a freedom

A WEEK IN POLITICS

of information act - all enough to keep the activists happy for the moment.

But there is little money around. In contrast to March 1974, Labour has at least inherited a recovering economy and low inflation. But the Tories have mortgaged any tax dividend from growth in 1992-3 by stretching public spending and borrowing to the limits. There is little cash for the public services. The proceeds of removing the ceiling on employers' national insurance and of raising the top marginal rate of income tax to 50 per cent have been absorbed in increasing child benefit and retirement pensions. Although moaning about higher personal tax rates, business and the City are still not hostile to Labour. John Smith has proved his commitment to maintaining sterling's value in the European Monetary System. This is his main anti-inflation weapon and has helped keep interest rates down. The national economic assessment is largely a waste of time since the unions and business have little to contribute.

Mr Kinnock has turned out to be a conservative head of government. Like most of his ministers he had no prior knowledge of Whitehall, and the Tories did not help by barring the usual contacts with permanent secretaries until six months before the election. And there have been some embarrassing gaffes. But Mr Kinnock has loudly praised the civil service, which has embraced him in return. He enjoys the establishment's praise. There have been a few characteristic gestures: a public holiday on Aneurin Bevan's birthday, a peerage for John Mortimer (Lord Rumpole) and a rumorous Downing Street party for the Welsh rugby team in belated



recognition of their victory in the World Cup - all good material for the tabloids.

Taking advantage of the British presidency of the European community, Mr Kinnock has promoted himself as a statesman, enjoying visits to other leaders and referring often to his friends François and George. He is cautious about agreeing to large cuts in defence expenditure, sought by the 1991 conference, despite growing calls from MPs: "It would be wrong to take risks with the nation's defence."

But tensions are developing. Labour local councils did not like being told by Bryan Gould that there would be only the most gradual easing of the Tories' squeeze, even though he had warned them beforehand. Public sector unions have also protested about the tough Treasury line in pay talks. As yet there is nothing like the left/right split of the 1970s, but a group of ministers -

nearly a third of the cabinet, including John Prescott, Michael Meacher, Robin Cook and, on European issues, Mr Gould - has complained in private about Treasury orthodoxy. Mr Cook has made a coded speech at a Tribune rally about the need to be more radical. Tony Benn tells everyone that the leadership has always betrayed party members, and jokes about David Owen joining the Kinnock government.

Unlike its behaviour in the 1970s, the ultra-left is still on the defensive. Visitors to the 1991 conference were astounded by the changes since the early 1980s: there was a near universal glow of Europeanism, whereas previously Brussels had been a term of abuse. And electoral reform was no longer a fringe issue. The earlier nastiness had disappeared.

Where, people wondered, had all the loonies gone? A few, in Militant, had been expelled, others had left the party to pursue their obsessions in sectarian or single issue groups, some had dropped out of politics to become consumers, and many had swung behind Kinnockism in the hope of victory. At the 1992 conference, the left is still willing to be loyal in public, but the perennial Labour myth of betrayal never goes away.

Several ministers are worried that the party is not addressing Britain's real difficulties. How is the country to pay for improved public services, the elderly, child care and the new training and technology programme if taxes on ordinary people are not raised? It is all very well talking about the peace dividend and the growth dividend, they say, but these remain elusive.

Too much time in opposition was spent attacking Tory

changes. The party should have done more to think about how to respond to the party's rising expectations of standards of health provision; complaining about underfunding was not enough. A few ministers have been heard sympathising with the Conservatives' attempts to improve the efficiency of the public sector by copying market mechanisms. The government, they said, would have to tackle the public sector unions.

It is, of course, wonderful to be in office, but even if Labour were to win an overall majority in the coming election, it would be hard to fulfill all, the promises and satisfy the party. It was easier back in the euphoria of Eighteen in October 1991, dreaming of what it would be like to win, and forgetting about the Tories' strengths. But not all dreams come true. England, not Wales, won the rugby World Cup, despite the tragic opening day upset.

...and moreover ALAN COREN

I really do apologise: three weeks is a long time on a tenterhook. When, on September 11, I first raised the subject of my imminent operation, I unforgivably failed to take account of what should have been the obvious fact that until the matter was resolved, you would be able to think of little else. You are caring people. You are all heart. Nearly four postcards have borne this out, plus a phone call from a man with a stammer who, I feel certain, would have got around to addressing the subject had time permitted.

In my defence, I can say only that I did not summon the pluck to undergo the surgery until today, you know how it is beneath the shadow of the knife, you keep thinking the problem will get better on its own, you keep hoping someone will hit upon a painless homeopathic alternative, and I have to tell you it is no easier beneath the shadow of the chainsaw.

Worse, if anything, you are agonising on two behalfs. The tree does not know what is coming, it thinks it's all right. It knows it's big, and it thinks big is good, that is what it was born for, to get big, that is what being a tree is all about. It doesn't know big is bad. It did not read *The Times* on September 11 to discover just how bad big was, viz. £930, to include lopping, thinning, and removing all rubbish from site.

That estimate, mind, was from a top surgeon, a Royal Forestry

Society consultant, an arboreal Magdali Yaoub, a chap with an embossed card showing his qualifications and a new Mercedes estate showing where qualifications get you. He is not, I have to tell you, the bloke currently hanging from the patient, singing as he saws. The one who is doing it for £500 cash. The one with no card and no Merc. The tattooed one in the string vest and the hacked-off jeans. Acacia Dundee.

I found him by asking around where I always ask around, and they said he'd be in at half-past two, he does a long morning so he doesn't have to go up after he's had a few, you don't want to be pissed when you're up a tree, afterwards he does drains. So I had another Guinness, and he came into The Crickwood Tavern, his hair full of leaves, his string vest full of twigs, he might have stepped out of Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, and we had a few, and I asked him if he knew about acacias, and he said, Me, me, do I know about bloody acacias, and now he is up there, dangling from a rope on the tree with the chainsaw dangling from a rope on him, rolling a cigarette while the saw, still howling, swings back and forth in a terrible arc, you wouldn't want to be a passing blackbird.

Would you want to be a tree? Would you want to be the tree's owner? That I hesitated over the word "owner" signifies the core of my agony: it is not a politically correct word these days, we are

all equal partners on planet earth, we must all - man, frog, sheep - love one another or die, so what am I doing saving six hundred quid on the old friend in my garden, would I send my children to a tattooed orthodontist who did come in the drunken afternoon for spot cash? I shouldn't be here, typing in the attic while he slashes at the tree, we are on a level, 20 yards apart, mine is no place for the squeamish, I stayed away when my wife gave birth, why I am attending the operation on my tree, I cannot take it, there goes another huge branch, I have read that trees hurt, trees cry, the acacia does not know what is going on, it felt fine this morning, it did not sign anything agreeing to allow a back-street arboreal to climb into it and start backing its insides out to the accompaniment of *The Mountains of Mourne*, it cannot run away, it has to stand there and take it while the body it has spent the last century studiously growing is savagely dismembered, the lawn beneath looks like Scars at Hospital, it is all limbs and digits.

I want to run out onto the lawn and tell the tree that everything's all right, this is called pruning, you will feel terrific tomorrow, but I don't speak tree. Fortunately, perhaps, if I did, the tree might ask me why I didn't get Magdali Yaoub, and I would have to confess that with Magdali Yaoub you don't get an afternoon's drainwork thrown in free.

Eyes on the ball

MUCH of the country ground to a halt for an hour and a half yesterday afternoon as the biggest sporting event in Britain for 25 years got under way. Parts of the City were almost deserted. Most of those not lucky enough to be at Twickenham were in front of office television sets.

Tory central office confessed to "divided" viewing loyalties between the rugby and Labour's defence debate. The research department was determinedly monitoring Labour, but the press office's three sets were all tuned to the rugby.

Downing Street was coy about whether John Major watched the game. His car was spotted speeding through the streets of London after visiting Canary Wharf, so as to be back at Downing Street by 3 pm. With Jacques Delors and the Dutch premier Ruud Lubbers not due until half an hour later,

1812... what an overture



the prime minister missed the try but is understood to have enjoyed Jonathan Webb's penalties.

At the Labour party conference, numbers of delegates' seats were empty, but journalists had even



less hesitation about their priorities. Ten minutes before kick-off, television monitors in the press room were switched from the conference over to Twickenham.

Jeffrey Archer scheduled his whole day around the big match. After addressing a lunch of Holland and Boston Conservatives he went on to Spalding. "I have to confess I went to the Conservative offices, where they had got in a television especially for me, so I could see the first half. I was late for my next appointment because the game was so good," he says.

Even British Rail suffered, with more afternoon cancellations than usual. BR admits it was deluged with applications from drivers and guards to switch their shifts so as to be home in time for kick-off.

Scoop pooped

THE internal inquest into why the BBC did not run the story that John Major had ruled out a November election until several hours after his rivals, reached feverish proportions in Brighton yesterday. The corporation's management is furious, and the repercussions look likely to have a considerable influence on who succeeds John Cole, who is due to retire from the post of political editor after the election. All BBC staff who were on duty at the Labour conference have been hauled over the coals by John Birt, the BBC's deputy

director general. The débâcle cannot have done much good to the prospects of two main internal contenders for Cole's job, senior political correspondents John Harrison and John Sergeant, who were both in Brighton and out of contact when the story broke at 7.30 pm on Channel Four News.

While Birt was angry that a team of more than a hundred at the conference had missed the story, even two hours after it had run on Channel Four, he was even more appalled to discover that the BBC Newsnight team knew at 7 pm but failed to pass the story to *The Nine O'Clock News*, because they assumed that someone in the news team was monitoring the rival station. This in the week that the BBC current affairs department launched its "Aims for the '90s", which include fostering greater teamwork.

Nadine Gordimer, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature yesterday, has been demoted from her role as ghost-writer of Nelson Mandela's autobiography because her skin is the wrong colour. After objections from ANC purists, she has been relegated to the role of an "informal adviser". Hilary Rubinstein, who published her first novel in 1953, says: "There was a feeling in Mandela's entourage that the book would be better done by a black person. I am delighted that she has won the prize. It is recognition of her fiery integrity."

In memoriam

VICTIMS of the Marchioness disaster will be remembered in a new orchestral work by Keith Burstein modelled on Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*. The piece will mix liturgy with lines by Yeats, Blake and Chaucer. There will be a first chance to hear the work at St Bride's in Fleet Street next month, although the full work will not be

premiered until it is performed in St Paul's cathedral in 1993.

Burstein is now trying to persuade Andrew Davis, chief conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, to preside over the premiere, which he says will require 300 musicians. Relatives of the bereaved will take part in the performance, reading their own poems.

Mutual respect

WHEN John Major told his aides on Tuesday that he wanted a ring one of the "four greatest men in the world", his staff could have been forgiven if they had reached for the numbers of the White House or the Kremlin.

But the prime minister wanted to speak to Sir Donald Bradman. Major has never met the Australian cricketer, one of his heroes since boyhood, but when he heard that Bradman's wife was recovering from an operation in Adelaide, he was anxious for a report. A close friend of Major's says: "They chatted for about ten minutes. They talked about Lady Bradman and of course they discussed cricket."

Last Christmas, the prime minister received a telegram from Bradman wishing him well, but Tuesday was the first time the two men had ever spoken. In describing Bradman as one of the four greatest men in the world, the prime minister also let slip the name of one of the others - Keith Miller the Australian all-rounder. But who are the other two? The smart money is not on Bush and Gorbachev at all. Peter May and Denis Compton are much more likely candidates.

Just hours before Sir Allan Green was questioned by police for allegedly car-crawling on Wednesday night, he attended a book launch at London's Groucho Club. The book's title? *Trial by Fire*.

Patient nearer

ALTHOUGH the prime minister has never met the Australian cricketer, one of his heroes since boyhood, but when he heard that Bradman's wife was recovering from an operation in Adelaide, he was anxious for a report. A close friend of Major's says: "They chatted for about ten minutes. They talked about Lady Bradman and of course they discussed cricket."

Hospitals that have chosen to fend for themselves under the health reforms are heading for a bleak financial winter

Shortages of cash bring new threat of ward closures

By JILL SHERMAN AND LOUISE HIDALGO

JUST six months after the health service reforms were introduced, trusts and directly managed hospitals are running into the same financial difficulties as in previous years and there are prospects of ward closures this winter.

A survey carried out by *The Times* over the past two weeks shows that one in three self-governing trusts are already overspent, with several predicting that they will have to turn away patients if they cannot negotiate extra funds.

The survey shows that many hospitals that have opted out of health authority control are freezing posts, cutting agency staff and asking clinical departments to draw up savings measures. A few trusts are planning to close wards to save staff costs while others are desperately trying to attract new business from GP fundholders to boost their income. Directly managed hospitals tend to be faring even worse than trusts, with two-thirds of those contacted already overspending.

Although the internal market was supposed to allow money to follow the patient, this clearly has not happened so far. On the contrary, insensitive contracts and imprecise costings are leading to financial problems in several parts of the health service against a background of rising demand.

In addition, several health authorities are not getting as much income as they expected from extra referrals outside the main block contracts agreed last April.

Some managers anxious for their hospitals to appear as efficient as possible have allowed a faster throughput of patients, ignoring the financial consequences. William Waldegrave, the health secretary, could face another troubled winter as hospitals struggle to balance their books in the months before a general election.

The highest overspenders overall are in London where such hospitals as Guy's and Charing Cross are heading for £2 million to £3 million deficits by the end of the year. Large urban hospitals in other parts of the country, such as Manchester central trust (£1.3m overspent), and specialist centres are also facing deficits. Most of the hospitals estimated that the financial situation would get worse in the second half of the year.

The telephone survey covered 54 of the 57 trusts (three have failed to provide information), and 33 directly managed hospitals, including 22 which plan to become self-governing next April. Eighteen trusts were overspent, 14 were underspent and 22 were on target. Twenty-one of the di-

rectly managed hospitals, including 13 hoping to become self-governing next April, were overspent, three underspent and seven on target.

Although six trusts admitted they were likely to overspend at the end of the financial year, the remainder hoped they would be able to honour their statutory requirement to break even. That suggests that at least 11 trusts will have to make significant cutbacks to balance their books at the end of the year.

In almost all cases trusts and directly managed hospitals were treating many more patients than the levels agreed to in their contracts, with increases in caseload ranging from one to 14 per cent. However, because the block contracts agreed last April were based on 1989/90 workloads and were not sensitive to volume, most hos-



Winter threat: a closed ward at Westminster hospital last year. Other hospitals fear the same this winter

pitals are not getting paid for doing more work.

Several hospitals are now trying to negotiate extra payments from health authorities where they have exceeded their contract, but few have succeeded. Southend health-care Trust, Westcliff-on-sea, which is now £150,000 in deficit

has just received £250,000 from Southend health authority to cover emergency work. However, it is still heading for a £250,000 overspend at the end of the year.

A few trusts, such as St James's University hospital, Leeds, are being paid marginal costs (25 per cent of the full

cost) for each extra operation, which the trust negotiated last April. St James's is on target despite a 7.5 per cent increase in workload and its finance director is confident that the hospital will break even at the year end.

East Gloucestershire Trust, is underspent by £500,000 and

predicts an even higher underspend at the end of the year. In contrast Nuffield Orthopaedic Trust, Oxford, was £345,000 overspent on its £20.4 million budget at the end of August.

Health debate, page 7
Leading article, page 17

Managers 'put care second'

TRUST managers are putting business before patient care and failing to consult doctors on the running of an internal market, consultants said yesterday (Jill Sherman writes).

At a meeting of the British Medical Association's consultants committee, doctors complained that managers were seen as "an alien occupying force". Although ministers had made clear that NHS reforms would work only if doctors were fully consulted, members of the 80-strong committee said their views had been largely ignored.

Dr Jim Johnson, a consultant in Merseyside, said managers at Broadgreen Hospital Trust, Liverpool, refused to allow a competing hospital to provide x-ray facilities when its own x-ray department ran into difficulties.

Whiston Hospital, which is directly managed, put together a package to assist Broadgreen, but Dr Johnson claimed that the chief executive refused it. "Looking after sick people is about co-operation not competition," Dr Johnson said.

MAGNET LAUNCH A GREAT NEW KITCHEN COLLECTION WITH A

1/2 PRICE SALE

PLUS! BUY NOW NOTHING TO PAY UNTIL NEXT YEAR

Save 50% off units from the new Magnet Kitchen collection* - and you won't pay a penny till next January.

FREE NEW KITCHEN COLLECTION BROCHURE

- 114 COLOUR PAGES
- 3 NEW RANGES
- NEW HIGH GLOSS WORKTOPS - 1ST IN U.K.



Magnet KITCHENS

FREEPHONE 0800 555 825 FOR FREE BROCHURE AND NEAREST SHOWROOM DETAILS

29.8%

APR variable. Pay in full by 3rd January 1992 or by credit. Monthly payments and interest start on 3rd January. Typical eg. Homeplan 0 where required credit limit is £1,568, you'd pay as little as £50 per month. Total credit price £2,729.15. Subject to status. Written quotation available on request. *Not including special units, buy 3 or more units to qualify. Prices relate to Summer 1991 Kitchen Collection Catalogue. Ask in store for full details. Magnet Ltd., Royd Taps Avenue, Kettlewell, West Yorkshire BD21 4BY

FREE NEFF DISHWASHER

R.R.P. £535
with any Magnet Kitchen purchase of £3,000 or more.

FREE SET OF 5 PRESTIGE PANS

R.R.P. £89.99
with kitchen purchases between £1,500-£2,999.

OFFERS END THIS SUNDAY!

OPENING HOURS:
MONDAY-SATURDAY
9.00 - 5.15

Selected stores open
Thursday late till 8.00 and
open Sunday for viewing
10.00 - 4.00

Patients referred nearer to homes

ALTHOUGH referral patterns have changed little in the first six months of the reforms, there is evidence that GPs are beginning to refer their patients nearer home when given the chance.

Many urban hospitals, particularly those in London, are receiving fewer referrals than they were expecting outside the block contracts negotiated with districts at the beginning of the year.

A fifth of all the hospitals surveyed said that they were experiencing financial difficulties because the income from extra contractual referrals or from GP fundholders was less than they had expected.

GP fundholders with their own budgets can refer patients where they like. Non-budget holders can refer patients outside contracts if they get prior permission from the district or if they are emergency referrals. Several hospitals in the survey complained that they had suffered between 20 to 30

per cent shortfalls in extra contractual referrals (ECR). The Luton and Dunstable hospital, which has applied to become a second-wave trust, has received 20 per cent fewer ECRs than expected in the first five months of this financial year.

Instead of the £200,000 expected, representing 3 per cent of its income, it has had £170,000. Funds from GP budget holders, expected to provide 5 per cent of its income, are also down by 20 per cent. The hospital is relying on business to pick up to help it overcome its current £140,000 deficit on its £45 million budget.

Several hospitals complained that GP fundholders were reluctant to spend their budgets. "Income from GPs is generally down in the South Thames area," said the finance director of St Helier hospital, which is poised to miss its £1.2 million income target from fundholders by 30 per cent.

TESTING



ESTIMATED ON THE ROAD PRICE \$6,000, INCLUDING TAX TOLL, UNIT NUMBER PLATES, DELIVERY AND 300 MONTHS ROAD TAX. CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. CAR FEATURED CITROEN AS OF WITH OPTIONAL MILEAGE TWENTY QUANTITIES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM DEPT TYPEN, CITROEN IN LTD. LICENSED CREDIT BROKERS, PRESTON, LONDON. ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE OVER 18 AND CREDIT WORTHY. A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED FOR EXPORTS. PRICE SALES PERIOD CITROEN, BARKLEY SQUARE, TEL: 01 858 8888. GOVERNMENT FUEL ECONOMY FIGURES AS DESCRIBE DIESEL: URBAN CYCLE 31.4MPG, CONSTANT 38.8MPG, 32.4MPG. SALES: URBAN 27.4MPG, CONSTANT 38.8MPG, 30.4MPG. SOURCE OF INFORMATION: MANUFACTURER.



TESTING TIME FOR TRUSTS

A large number of trust hospitals, flagships of the great Tory health reform, are in financial trouble. This is giving the Labour party great cause for alarm. These hospitals are at the centre of the political stage and, like the health service itself, will stay there until the next election. Here is a rare topic on which a true gap exists between the parties. The Tories are determined to press on with reforms intended to yield more value for money from Britain's soaring health budget, in part by encouraging hospitals to go independent. Labour would renationalise them and bail out their managements with unspecified quantities of money.

Nothing better illustrates the remaining dichotomy between the parties. The Labour conference yesterday threw to the winds the fiscal caution of Neil Kinnock, John Smith and Margaret Beckett. Activists starved all week of red meat at last had something into which to sink their teeth. The most deep-seated public emotion, fear of illness, had always been a Labour rallying cry. Free health had always been axiomatic. Trimming may now be obligatory on defence, taxation, Europe, monetary policy. But unrestricted spending and a return to central planning for this greatest of Britain's demand-led services is still the ark of the covenant.

Any government long in office knows this is reckless. Health services must be rationed somehow. In Britain, rationing by charging the consumer is rightly considered anathema. Unrestricted spending via private insurance, as in America, is extravagant and increasingly riddled with inefficiency and unfairness. Labour would ration health the way it always has, by queuing and by the favouritism particularly rife in London's hospitals. The government may take credit for seeking, however belatedly, a fairer way that also yields more value for money after four decades of maladministration. Britain's public health service may be sound, and may yield better value than most equivalent services abroad. Few of Britain's hospitals can make that claim. Hence the validity of the trust principle, built on a basis of internal transfer pricing.

The new internal market is revealed by today's *Times* survey as experiencing acute

teething troubles — though whether these troubles are different in kind from those familiar in years past is doubtful. The independent trusts are just starting. Managers are feeling their way, eager to get customers, treating more patients than they bargained for, cutting administrative corners and painfully discovering how over-manned and over-housed many of them have been for years. A third of the trusts are in financial trouble and may give the government some excruciating headlines before the winter is out. Some adaptation of the contract system, the core of the internal market, may be necessary in time.

Labour clearly has every incentive to misrepresent this, as conversely do the Tories. The trusts are "opted out" of district health management, though not of the health service. And they are indeed expected to be run on commercial lines, including making a return on their property assets. Their function is not to make profits (except profits for consultants and drugs companies) but to identify inputs and outputs and seek to match spending to better health. They should be able to offer doctors, and through them patients, a better service. By avoiding the waste of insurance-led systems, plagued by defensive medicine and monopoly pricing, the hospital budget overall should yield more "health per pound".

Labour knows this is sensible. The party knows that in office it will have to adopt a similar control, if only to save Robin Cook's reputation from the Treasury jackals. Yet Mr Cook will not say how he would ration resources. He and his leader imply that money grows on trees, that they will "restore the underfunding of the health service", a phrase devoid of meaning. The curse of British politics is that bipartisan debate on matters such as health and local government is considered bad form.

Luckily for the health service, the government is in no real dilemma over this. It cannot go back, only forward. But it may still have to pay dearly for Margaret Thatcher's ten years of hesitation in tackling the health service, by throwing money at its budget in advance of the election. But at least it is on the right track and Labour is not.

RESCUE FOR HAITI

If ever there was a case for measured foreign intervention in the internal affairs of a sovereign state, it must be Haiti. A democratically elected president has been overthrown by military thugs intent on preserving their privileges, power and licence to plunder at will this impoverished and benighted nation.

Making no pretence of upholding democracy, trigger-happy troops, acting with the arbitrary savagery of the old Tontons Macoutes, are shooting down civilians, looting property, commandeering cars and terrorising the urban poor who voted en masse for the deposed president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. With cynical talk of "guiding the ship of state into port" General Cedras has defied the Haitian people, the democratic spirit of the times, the Organisation of American States, President Bush's new world order and the United Nations — which only last week applauded the young priest-president's ringing commitment to decency and democracy in Haiti. President Aristide has called for help.

The world is less tolerant of dictators nowadays. But actions to back world disapproval — resolutions of condemnation, continued recognition of President Aristide, suspension of all international aid — may make insufficient impact on the men who swagger through the presidential palace. And cutting off all aid would kill off those few projects that keep this poorest nation in the Western hemisphere above the starvation line.

Only the Americans have the means to intervene more decisively. Three times in the past decade the White House has sent a military task force into its backyard, ousting the rulers of Grenada and Panama, and doing its best, albeit by proxy, to topple the Nicar-

aguan Sandinistas. Even since President Monroe promulgated his famous doctrine, Washington has had little compunction about intervening south of the Rio Grande when it felt its interests were at stake. Until recently this meant when pro-American governments, democratic or not, were threatened by communist or left-wing forces.

Now America's interest, as propounded by President Bush after the Gulf war, is to make the world, certainly the Western hemisphere, safe for democracy. It is one the Russians are ready to support. President Aristide is a democrat. His electoral rhetoric was uncomfortably anti-American, but since assuming office he showed himself pragmatic and ready to heed the advice of world bodies such as the International Monetary Fund.

Swift and massive military intervention on the Grenada model is ill-advised and anyway probably too late. But a gradual increase in pressure — in effect creeping intervention — is required if the junta is not to consolidate its power. Nothing need at this stage be too explicit. Already the new rulers can see the total ostracism proposed by the United Nations and the Organisation of American States. Most Western countries have already suspended aid. The dispatch of 400 American marines, ostensibly to protect the 7,000 American tourists in Haiti, is a veiled threat of further action.

This graduated response should have as its firm aim the restoration of President Aristide, perhaps with a promise that he would hold elections soon. The junta might yet be persuaded that it should bow to such a face-saving formula, in the hope that the leaders can salvage something from their stupidity. Just to recognise their *fait accompli* would be a defeat.

RADICAL RECOGNITION

For once there need be no arguments about whether the 1991 Nobel prize for literature was bestowed on a worthy laureate. Nadine Gordimer, this year's winner, has a good claim to be South Africa's most distinguished living novelist, and the Swedish academicians already had her in their sights in 1974, the year she won the Booker. Miss Gordimer deserved her prize for the literary merits of her works, not because she was a woman, nor because she was a supporter of the African National Congress. Nor, though she is 67, is her prize in belated recognition of distant achievements: her latest novel, *My Son's Story*, appeared last year.

Compared to other well-known South African writers, such as the late Alan Paton or the Afrikaner André Brink, Nadine Gordimer seems almost too insulated. What does a well-to-do resident of a smart Johannesburg suburb know about the black servant in *July's People* with whom a white couple take refuge as civil war rages, the communist activists in *Burger's Daughter*, the black revolutionaries in *A Sport of Nature*? But her background explains much. Her grandparents were Jewish cockneys and Latvians, her father was a jeweller in a goldmining town, her second husband was a refugee from the Nazis. All were outsiders.

Nadine Gordimer calls herself a radical — she cannot admit to "liberalism" — whose lifelong political commitment to the cause of black South Africans has become more open over the years. She is close to Nelson Mandela. For all its literary justification, the award of

this prize this year to this writer is not unproblematic. Had she received it in an earlier year, with apartheid still in place and the campaign against it still the centre of attention, the political message would have been clear. Now with apartheid repealed and F. W. de Klerk negotiating with opposition groups about a new constitution, the Nobel prize committee can perhaps rest on its laureate's literary merit alone.

Many South African intellectuals, among whom Nadine Gordimer is pre-eminent, previously challenged the negative stereotype of South Africa's white community as uniformly conservative. They did not flee, but stayed to keep the flag of dissent flying over desperately barren soil. Their country's future is now infinitely complex. Its cultural elite has a new responsibility to interpret fast changing events, to cool irrational rebellion as well as to oppose bigotry.

Whether Miss Gordimer is likely to accept this responsibility has yet to be seen. In a *Times* interview last year, she was asked if she feared that the increasing "power of the black man to abuse his fellow African" might one day cause her to feel revulsion against her life's work. "My dear, it's perfectly possible," she replied. "Very often we support change and then are swept away by the change. I think that you just make your own response to your own generation. A response adequate to your time." That is a fitting apology for a Nobel novelist, even if the time has come in the new South Africa for a new generation of Gordimers.

Preserving rights of asylum-seekers

From Mr Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, and others

Sir, The need to preserve the rights of asylum-seekers was never more urgent. The changes in the law which the home secretary is proposing to introduce in the next session of Parliament, and further explained in his recent Bar conference speech last week (report, September 30), are deeply worrying. If enacted, they will profoundly alter this country's tradition of affording haven to refugees.

The granting of asylum to refugees has been a feature of civilised societies from the days of the ancient Greeks. Today it is an honoured part of international law. A clear definition of a refugee is to be found in the 1951 convention relating to the status of refugees extended in a 1967 protocol.

The United Kingdom is a party to that convention. It is not, however, part of our law and is applicable only in the implementation of our immigration rules. These rules do not provide a procedure for establishing refugee status. In reality even those who meet the requirements of the convention may not be granted asylum. The UK immigration system is certainly not fully implementing the convention.

Yet the government is now proposing a series of restrictive measures that will further limit the granting of asylum. These include a "fast-track" system that will deny to some applicants even the chance of an oral hearing.

The government should cease to play shamelessly on the public's fear of foreigners. Asylum is a moral commitment as well as an international legal commitment. If we do less than the convention requires, it will mean a betrayal of some of the finest and bravest people in the world, as well as of a decent society in Britain.

Yours etc,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
DAVID L. ASTOR,
MICHAEL CAMPBELL,

DONALD ENGLISH, JOHNSON,
JANE EWART-BIGGS,
HUGO GRYN, RONALD HOAR,
ROBERT MACLENNAN,
H. PINTER,
RICHARD OXON,
In Defence of Asylum,
73 St Charles Square, W10,
October 2.

Jumping the gun

From Mr John Hart

Sir, The free world has every right to be underwhelmed by the Greek government's celebration of 2,500 years of democracy (*Diary*, September 27): they are two years too soon. The Athenian democracy was set up in 508 BC. What actually happened 2,500 years ago (in 510) was that Athens's tyranny was replaced, but not by a democratic government. For full details, see Herodotus's *History*, 5.55-73.

I suspect, however, that like many schoolchildren the Greeks have added the AD and BC dates together and added one instead of subtracting one (there was no year 0); in ancient Athens, mathematics was very strong.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HART
(Senior classics master,
Malvern College, College Road,
Malvern, Worcestershire.)

Funds for wildlife

From Mr N. S. E. Martin

Sir, It interests me that the World Wide Fund for Nature has turned down the proceeds of a sale of stuffed birds, which would probably have amounted to some £20,000, because they have to be careful from whom they accept money (*Diary*, September 28).

In August, Chessington Zoo offered to raise funds for the WWF to assist with the preservation of wilderness areas in the world. We expected to raise several thousand pounds a year but were told that they would feel unable to accept the money as we were not a recognised conservation centre.

We found this surprising. The local branch of the WWF has occasionally collected money at Chessington Zoo. We have also raised £16,000 in the last 18 months to support the Digi Fund, the project helping protect mountain gorillas in Africa, and indeed have many endangered species at Chessington as part of captive-breeding programmes.

Needless to say, we are raising money to support the preservation of wilderness areas, but another organisation will be benefiting from our efforts.

Yours etc,
NIGEL MARTIN
(General Manager,
Chessington World of Adventures,
Chessington, Surrey.)

Political costs

From Mr John E. Stratford

Sir, In calling for government funding of political parties, Dr G. K. Williamson (September 30) writes: "We are approaching the position where candidates may appear only if some powerful undemocratic rich lobby chooses to support them." This is true of the Labour party where many candidates are sponsored by trade unions. It is not true for the Liberal Democrats or the Conservative party where there is no connection between those that provide finance for the parties and their MPs.

Dr Williamson thinks that membership fees and individual fund-raising events are collapsing in the Conservative party. In my own constituency of Beaconsfield in 1979 approximately £30,000 was raised. In the last 12 months Beaconsfield has raised approximately £180,000 of which over £50,000 was in membership subscriptions at an average of £12 each. This has been achieved by an organised professional approach to fund raising. It has necessitated close contact with the electorate by use of modern methods, including computers and direct mail.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Optimism for future of Ethiopia

From the Chairman of the Relief Society of Tigray

Sir, The damage done to Ethiopia by the Mengistu dictatorship cannot be understated, but I believe that your leader "The blind aiding the bad", (October 1) did not reflect a certain optimism now felt in Ethiopia, despite the severity of the problems the country faces.

For the first time in its history, Ethiopia has a government committed to the holding of democratic elections. The cabinet of ministers, with eight nationalities represented, reflects the ethnic diversity of the country.

The national charter adopted by the transitional government, based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the UN, guarantees all the basic freedoms and also the rights of Ethiopia's many nationalities. The Ethiopian press, TV and radio have been opened up to free debate. The new economic policy proposal by the transitional government, guaranteeing a private sector, has been presented for discussion throughout Ethiopia and among Ethiopian communities abroad.

The wars that have crippled the country for 30 years have ended. While insecurity continues in areas where traditionally there has been a problem, the new government is seeking to resolve disputes by discussion rather than by force. The political prisoners held by the old regime have been freed; members of the old regime who have been arrested on charges in open court and are being held in humane conditions, with access to their families and visits by the Red Cross and Amnesty International.

Within its limited capacity, the government is working with the UN and voluntary agencies to get relief supplies to those in need. Donated grain cannot be moved fast enough, because there is a desperate shortage of trucks and spare parts.

Under the feudal monarchy of Haile Selassie and the military dictatorship which followed, the people of Ethiopia were unable to realise their potential. With a voice in how the country is to be run and

consequently a stake in the future, they are now entering the most hopeful era in Ethiopian history for decades and it is to be hoped that the international community will help Ethiopia on its democratic path by providing both the emergency and development assistance the country needs.

Yours sincerely,
SOLOMON INQUAL, Chairman,
Relief Society of Tigray,
UK Support Committee,
211 Clapham Road, SW9,
October 3.

From Mr Tony Vaux

Sir, Your leader writer's comments on the current situation in Ethiopia are misleading, given the record so far of the new government there.

For many months now record amounts of food aid have been passing through the Ethiopian ports and have been successfully delivered to famine areas. The new government (which already had a remarkable record of delivering aid to Tigray during the war) has placed a very high priority on this and relief operations have been running remarkably smoothly.

Just at this moment there is a problem at the port of Assab. This is not the fault of the Ethiopian or Eritrean authorities, but largely because so much food has arrived all at once. This reveals plentiful food will but a lack of necessary co-ordination on the part of the donor governments which supply the food. Trucking has also been reduced due to local security problems. However, such problems have proved to be the exception, not the rule. They are temporary and are being solved.

Having just returned from Ethiopia I have also seen how the government and people there are making remarkable efforts to overcome the long and dismal legacy of war and the anger and hatred it generated. Good news is rare enough. It should be acknowledged where it exists.

Yours sincerely,
TONY VAUX
(Oxfam emergencies co-ordinator),
274 Banbury Road, Oxford,
October 2.

Forgiving Japan

From Major-General I. H. Lyall Grant

Sir, After the Russo-Japanese war of 1905 the Japanese received wide acclaim for their exceptionally humane treatment of the prisoners that they captured. Their record in world war two was very different.

The brutal, inhumane and humiliating treatment accorded to many British prisoners of war and civilians (Sir Bernard Braine's letter, September 30) has marred Anglo-Japanese relations ever since. None of those who suffered can forget and many, understandably, find it difficult to forgive.

Nevertheless the Japanese people received in expiation a terrible punishment, as those who visited the country at the end of the war can testify, and individuals held responsible for specific war crimes were executed. Moreover, Japanese crimes were certainly no worse than those of our main opponent and scarcely in the same league as those of one of our major allies.

These two nations have both been forgiven and surely it is time that the Japanese, with their many admirable qualities, were made equally welcome. At least this is what a growing number of those who fought against them in South-East Asia now believe.

Yours faithfully,
I. H. LYALL GRANT
(Chairman, Burma Campaign Fellowship Group),
6 St Martin's Square,
Chichester, West Sussex.

From Dr R. John Pritchard

Sir, I endorse Sir Bernard Braine's suggestion for a sensitively structured, Japanese-endowed foundation, dedicated to the care and treatment of Britons still suffering

from the effects of Japanese ill-treatment during the second world war. Such an endowment would help the present generation of Japanese to join with us in honouring the debt owed to these British servicemen and their families.

The British exchequer should not be the beneficiary, but any savings that accrued to HMG could be applied to direct compensation for the 17,000 or so surviving Far East POWs, widows and civilian internees. Compensation of £10,000 apiece would equate to a pension of no more than £200 for each of the 50 years that have elapsed since Pearl Harbour.

There are compelling grounds to suggest that the foundation be used to supply private medical care through existing health contractors, such as BUPA. The Japanese Red Cross, founded by the Meiji aristocracy (Florence Nightingale was one of its earliest patrons), might form an appropriate vehicle for the endowment.

Sincerely yours,
R. JOHN PRITCHARD,
King's College London,
Department of War Studies,
Strand, WC2,
September 28.

From Mr Christopher Hart
Sir, The debt of honour owed by the Japanese and mentioned by Sir Bernard Braine has already been repaid. It was repaid from the air in March 1945 at Tokyo and in August 1945 at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Japanese look upon those incidents with the same horror as we do with their mistreatment of our prisoners. Time to call it a draw?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER HART,
1 Churchfields, Laflour,
Mullion, Helston, Cornwall.
September 30.

Ships that fail to pass

From Professor Gillville Williams, QC, FBA

Sir, Philip Howard ("... and more over", September 28) tells us that "some languages such as Greek and Italian used the third person singular as a formal way of addressing the second person". One language, our own, still does, when it is a matter of addressing a judge in court.

To say "you" to a judge would be thought impolite. "As your lordship pleases" — as though the judge's lordship were some invisible halo hanging over him, which does, thinks and says everything on his behalf. "If your lordship would be good enough to..." It is not the judge who is requested to be good enough, but the judge's lordship.

In legal writing this lordship is so worshipful that it even attracts a capital L. But lawyers have now accustomed themselves out of court to eliminating the ships and saying or even writing "the learned judge" or even (very bravely) "the judge".

In the highest court of all stiffness still reigns. For nearly all lawyers the Law Lords (with their ships) absolutely must have capital Ls. And whereas one can say "the judge did not address the question whether..." to say "the lord did not address the question whether..." is still taboo. It must be "his Lordship".

Yours faithfully,
GILLVILLE WILLIAMS,
Merrion Gate,
Gazley Lane, Cambridge.
September 28.

Government funding will kill individual effort and initiative and make political parties more remote to the electorate. The Labour party needs to shake off the shackles of the trade unions block vote and sponsorship. The Conservative party needs to be democratically accountable to its members. Government funding will take the pressure off the necessary changes and democracy would be the poorer for it.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. STRATFORD
(Chairman, Beaconsfield Conservative Association 1985-90),
Fernana, Fulmer Road,
Gerards Cross,
Buckinghamshire,
September 30.

Classroom fit for modern teacher

From Sir Graham Hills

Sir, I was amazed to see the picture of Mr Keneth Clarke (Education, September 30) standing smilingly in front of an ancient blackboard covered in beautifully executed chalk writing, putting, in words, some arithmetical problems. Apart from the presence of the secretary of state, the picture could have been 100 years old or, if photography had been invented earlier, 500 years old.

The coming of the book was a great opportunity to deliver us from most of the tasks of the scriptorium. The coming of the overhead projector and the copying machine enables the teacher to distribute notes and written questions in exact and clear text. The consequent saving of the teacher's time and energy can then be deployed to promoting the pupils' understanding of what is before them.

It is essential to reduce the mechanical aspects of the transfer of knowledge by utilising the new means available, such as the book, the transcript, and, not least, the moving picture of television which I believe is here to stay.

The prime purpose of a teacher is then to address the abundant misunderstandings of the individual pupil or student, almost irrespective of the content and quality of the knowledge base confronting them. That requires effort and dedication that is otherwise wasted on habits totally unchanged since the Middle Ages.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM HILLS,
Sunside of Threepenny,
Lough Threepenny,
Beith, Ayrshire,
September 30.

Books for A level

From Miss Jennifer Long

Sir, I have recently achieved an A grade at English A level and it was not my experience that sixth-form students will go to the lengths described by Mr James Coen (September 25) to avoid reading a prescribed text, whether it is *The Day of the Jackal* or *Murder in the Cathedral*.

Through the judicious use of video adaptations, our teachers helped us to a realisation of the proper value of texts and the perils of relying on the interpretation of a film-maker or, indeed, the author of a study aid.

The teaching was also sufficiently rigorous to ensure that more than "good intentions" were required to complete the course.

Yours faithfully,
JENNIFER LONG,
4 Ridgmont,
South Benfleet, Essex.
September 26.

Road accident figures

From Dr Mayer Hillman and Dr Michael Carley

Sir, The good news about reduced road accidents (report, September 27) should not be allowed to obscure the fact that this has been achieved, in part, at the expense of the freedom and mobility of pedestrians, especially children.

The Policy Studies Institute report issued in February, "One False Move...", showed that in 1971 80 per cent of seven and eight-year-old children went to school on their own, without an adult escort. By 1990 that proportion fell dramatically to 9 per cent.

In contrast, a comparative study in Germany carried out in the same year, revealed that 60 per cent of children of the same age were still able to go to school without an adult escort.

The large majority of children in Britain are escorted to school by adults chiefly because their parents fear the increased danger to which they are exposed on the roads.

The number of child deaths on the roads has fallen because the roads have become more dangerous not because they have become safer. The contrast between these findings and the official claim that "We are probably the safest country in the world" serves only to demonstrate how inadequate are road accident figures, on their own, as a measure of road safety.

Yours etc,
MAYER HILLMAN,
MICHAEL CARLEY,
Policy Studies Institute,
100 Park Village East, NW1,
October 1.

Middle-age spread

From Mr Jeffrey Robinson

Sir, You report (September 28) the tragic deaths of two "elderly" residents of a tower block which has now been refurbished. Later you report reveals their ages to be 54 and 57. At the age of 48 I may be over-sensitive but I would like to know what has happened to the description middle-aged.

Yours faithfully,
JEFFREY ROBINSON,
46 Grange Gardens,
Llantwit Major, South Glamorgan.

Missing link

From Mr Michael Cryer

Sir, In their television advertising British Rail boast of 28 trains each day to Newcastle and 27 back. Does this explain Network SouthEast's shortage of rolling stock?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL CRYER,
14 Aldersmead Road,
Beckenham, Kent.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 **The Channel 4 Daily**
9.25 **Schools**

12.00 **Profiles of Nature: The Grey Seals of Sable Island.** The wildlife documentary series continues with film of seals as they arrive in December on Sable Island, a barren sand bar off the coast of Nova Scotia, to give birth to their pups

12.30 **Business Daily**

1.00 **Sesame Street.** Award-winning pre-school learning series from the United States

2.00 **Art of the Western World.** The sixth programme in historian Michael Wood's series on the history of Western art focuses on the northern Renaissance (I)

2.30 **Channel 4 Reeltime: Newmarket.** John Francom introduces live coverage of the Racing Post Claiming Stakes (2.35); the Somerville Tattersall Stakes (3.10), the Main Reef Stakes (3.40); and the Charles Wells Eagle Bitter Handicap (4.10). The commentators are Raleigh Gilbert, John Oaksey and Jim McGrath. There are also previews of this weekend's Cambridgeshire at Newmarket and the Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamps

4.00 **Fifteen-to-One.** Fast-moving general knowledge quiz game, presented by William G. Stewart (a)

5.00 **The Encircled Sea.** Programme seven of the ten-part series on the Mediterranean and the people who live along its shores focuses on the former great trading centres – Istanbul, Carro, Delos and Carthage (I). (Teletext)

5.30 **I Love Lucy (b/w).** Classic 1950s comedy series starring Lucille Ball as a scatterbrained housewife

6.00 **Roseanne.** Invasive bio collar comedy from the United States starring the role and Roseanne Barr and the equally overweight John Goodman (I)

6.30 **sixtynine something.** Showbiz magazine presented by Maria McElrane and Ann Bryson. Tonight's guests include Richard E. Grant, star of *Withnail and I* and *I How to Get Ahead in Advertising*, Latoya Jackson, Burt Eklund who talks about his life, her Lewis, her future career and plastic surgery, and Don Johnson, a changed man since reuniting Melanie Griffiths

7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Nicholas Owen and Zeinab Badawi in London and Jon Snow at the Labour party conference in Brighton (Teletext) Weather

8.30 **Anton Mosimann** – Naturally. In this fifth of his series on innovative cooking Anton Mosimann demonstrates how a simple mix of flour, water and a little yeast can be turned into a wealth of interesting ideas. (Teletext)

9.00 **Clifford** – Another from the first series of the award-winning comedy set in a Boston bar. Tonight Sam upssets Diane when he enters her photograph in a newspaper's Miss Boston Barmaid competition (7). (Teletext)

9.30 **Mushroom Magic**. The first of a series exploring the world of the mushroom, presented by Michael Jordan (7). (Teletext)

10.00 **Clifford** – Another from the first series of the award-winning comedy set in a Boston bar. Tonight Sam upssets Diane as a man

trying to cope with the dating game for the second time around
Tonight he meets a neighbour in his apartment block's laundry
room. (Teletext) (a)


10.35 The Best of the Paul Hogan Show. Antipodean humour (t)

11.05 The Happening. Variety introduced by Jocke Holland. With the
Jeff Healy Band from Toronto, comedy from Craig Ferguson and
the Unco-ordinated Jugglers Association (s)

12.05am One Night Stand. American comedienne Joy Behar on stage
(s)

12.35 Sumo. Japanese wrestling from the final day of the Grand Autumn
Basho (t) (s)

1.05 Pillar A Shot in the Dark (1933, b/w) starring O.B. Clarence,
Dorothy Boyd and Jack Hawkins. Thriller about a vicar investigating
the murder of a disliked recluse and uncovering a raft of suspects.
Directed by George Pearson. Ends at 2.05



Giving the lowdown on fungi: presenter Michael Jordan (8.30pm)

0 Superbouts programme
call 8.00 Sky 4.40 Gol 5.

Soccer Weekend 11.00 Watersports World 12.00 German League Football

EUROSPORT

- **Via the Astra satellites.**
2.00pm Football Euro Cup 3.30 Motor Sport
4.00pm Tinnies! Toulouse Open 5.30 Women's Tennis from Germany 6.00 Kick-Boxing 7.00 GOLF 7.30 Aerobics 8.00 Table Tennis European Masters 8.00 Weightlifting Germany 9.30 European News 10.00 Trans World Sport 11.00 Live Boxing

SCREENSPORT

- **Via the Astra satellites.**
7.00am Eurovision 7.30 Fight Night at the Forum 8.00 Sport in France 8.30 College Football 9.30 Eurobats 10.00 Rugby World Cup 1981 Highlights 11.00 Cycling 12.00 European Golf 12.30pm Fun TV Wundersharing 1.00 British Footballs 3.00 2.00 Argentine Soccer 2.45 Live Rugby World Cup: Australia v Argentina (NS) The following

World Sport Special 7.45 Live Rugby World Cup 1991: France v Romania 8.30 Rugby World Cup 1991 Highlights 10.30 Insects Track 12.00 European Golf 12.00 Japen Sports Car Championships 12.30pm Fight Night at the Forum 1.00 Major League Baseball 3.00 Newsline Winston Cup 6.00 World Snooker Classics

LIFESTYLE

- **Via the Astra satellites.**
10.00am The Great American Gameshows 10.50 Corliss Bree 10.55p Europe View out 11.25 Simply Marmite 12.00 Social Jossy Rapbeat 12.50pm Star Time 12.55 Search for Tomorrow 1.20 The Edge of Night 1.45 Video Zone 2.20 Lifestyle Plus 2.30 Pats and Patrons 2.55 Power Into Asia 3.50 Tea Recipe 4.00 Dick Van Dyke 4.30 The Greatest Generation 4.55 The Best of the Rich and Famous 5.00 The Show Veeen Shipping Programme 6.00 Close 10.00 Scallie Jubilee

BUSINESS

WITH A PAIR OF SCISSORS.

Cut out the sleepless nights by cutting out the coupon below. Our Small Business Pack is the definitive guide to setting up and developing your own business – the questions you should be asking and the plans you should be making. Send us the coupon or phone us now for your free copy.

FREEPHONE 0800 400 170

Please send me a free Small Business Pack.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

PLEASE RETURN THE COUPON TO:
BARCLAYS INFORMATION CENTRE,
DEPARTMENT 'M, FREEPOST,
NORTHAMPTON NN1 1BR.

X101255

- BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-29
● MOTORING 31
● YOUR OWN BUSINESS 32
● LAW REPORT 33
● SPORT 33-38

THE TIMES BUSINESS

FRIDAY OCTOBER 4 1991

Business Editor
John Bell

WEEKEND MONEY TOMORROW

PROFILE



David James
Doyen of company doctors, David James, 43, charges £3,000 a day and has never failed to rescue an ailing business. But as Carol Leonard found, he still suffers from insecurity.

DOUBLE TAKE

A conference is meeting in Venice to discuss credit card fraud as an electronics expert begins a jail term after tampering with the magnetic strip on a Barclaycard. Lindsay Cook, Money Editor, writes.

SHARE CALL

Nearly 20 million BT customers have received letters inviting them to register for shares in the latest government sell-off. Sara McConnell reports.

Next slumps at halfway

NEXT is the latest retailer to confirm that there is no sign of the gloom lifting from the high street, despite the fall in interest rates and optimistic outlook from the government.

The group made pre-tax profits of £200,000 (£2.3 million) in the six months to end-July, on sales down to £220 million (£420 million) as a result of the disposal of the Grattan mail order business. Earnings were nil (0.44p), and there is no interim dividend (0.7p). The shares rose 5p to 47p.

Laura Ashley, page 25
Temps, page 27

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7507 (-0.0023)
German mark 2.9149 (+0.0023)
Exchange index 91.1 (-0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2019.2 (-18.7)
FT-SE 100 2625.6 (-18.6)
New York Dow Jones 3000.89 (-11.63)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24711.44 (+336.33)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS
Bespoke 489p (+12p)
Henry Boot 957p (+15p)
Grand Met 847p (+7p)
Fortis 271p (+8p)
Kwik Save 611p (+10p)
Park Foods 371p (+8p)
Vestergaard 280p (+10p)
Auto Sec 184p (+10p)
Enterprise 520p (+8p)
FALLS
BOC 596p (-18p)
Cordary Schweppes 423p (-10p)
FNFC 53p (-15p)
Rainers Group 85p (-21p)
Hagerty 188p (-22p)
A McAlpine 205p (-3p)
Rugby Group 180p (-3p)
Vodafone 371p (-10p)
Amstrad 563p (-14p)
Tipkick 800p (-10p)
BAT 800p (-10p)
Closing Prices...Page 29

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 10 1/2%
3-month interbank 10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills 9 1/2%
US Prime Rate 8%
Federal Funds 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.03-5.01%
30-year bonds 10 5/8-10 7/8

CURRENCIES

London: £ \$1.7500
New York: £ \$1.7502
E: DM2.9146
E: DM1.6555
E: Sfr1.2549
E: Sfr1.4555
A: ¥122.07
A: ¥120.81
E: Index 84.1
ECU 60.702487
ECU 121.423513
London foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$357.20 pm \$358.80
Close \$357.20-357.80 (\$204.00-204.50)
New York:
Comex \$357.55-358.05

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) 82.70 bbl (\$21.45)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.1 August (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Day goes on attack against City attempts to force partial break-up

Bae condemns 'third party' interference

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR Graham Day, chairman of British Aerospace, last night bitterly condemned efforts within the City to force a partial break-up of Britain's biggest manufacturing company.

Despite widespread indications that the General Electric Company was prepared to intervene to speed the restructuring of Bae, Sir Graham said Bae was not in discussions with a potential bidder.

The company would stick to its own strategy, he insisted. Sources close to Bae indicated that Sir Graham, appointed temporary chairman in place of Professor Sir Roland Smith, was "determined to see this through, even if it takes a year or more".

In a statement released at the insistence of Sir Graham after the Stock Exchange had asked both companies for clarification, Bae said: "The Company has received indications that the speculation is being encouraged by third parties whose interests may differ sharply from those of the company, its shareholders, customers and employees."

Sir Graham added: "The board is absolutely united behind the strategy which we announced with the rights issue." He pledged: "We will resist vigorously any attempts which prove not to be in the interests of shareholders, customers and employees to divert us from this programme."

His comment appeared to leave the door open to proposals for joint ventures in specific businesses. But it was clear he will resist any attempt to break up the Rover cars to Tornado jets group.

Sources close to Bae pointed to the immense difficulties that any external break-up attempt would face. Bae is protected by a government "golden share" that limits individual holdings to 15 per cent. Any attempt to sell Rover, the carmaking subsid-

iary, before August 1993 would need the consent of the trade department, under terms agreed when Bae bought the business from the government in 1988. Bae also has international ties with the Airbus consortium.

If GEC were to approach Bae, the first contact might be made through Sir James Blyth, the chairman of Boots, who is a non-executive director of Bae. Sir James is understood to have met Lord Weinstock, the managing director of GEC, several times during GEC's second, successful bid for Plessey, the electronics group.

GEC's principal objective is thought to be to secure its sales of electronic defence equipment to Bae. But Lord Weinstock is understood to believe GEC could help improve the management of Bae's defence businesses.

City stockbrokers were last night expressing their anger about events at Bae which, they claim, had effectively created a false market in the shares (Michael Clark, Stock Market Correspondent, reports). The criticism follows television and newspaper reports that GEC was about to

launch a break-up bid for the company in the wake of its sharp drop in profits and the boardroom coup that resulted in last week's departure of Sir Roland Smith as chairman.

The intense speculation drove the Bae share price sharply higher in early trading on two consecutive days. But City scepticism and the absence of hard facts saw much of the gains pared by the close. Yesterday, Bae touched 437p before closing only 7p better at 423p. The announcement from the company that the speculation was being encouraged by third parties came after the close of business and too late to affect the share price.

One broker complained: "It is a convenient story to break just as the Bae share price looks ready to dip below the rights issue price of 380p." He said the prospect of GEC making a full bid was remote.

Another broker added: "It has just been a cynical manipulation of the market. GEC appears to have warned off anyone who might have considered bidding for Bae and helped preserve the independence of one of its biggest customers."



Determined: Sir Graham Day said he would stand by Bae's strategy

Disillusioned investor will shun rights

By NEIL BENNETT

AT LEAST one leading institutional shareholder in British Aerospace will not invest in the £432 million rights issue because of disillusionment with the company.

The fund manager, who did not wish to be named, said he was also prepared to sell his holding if the price was high enough. His refusal to take part in the rights issue, which is due to be approved at an extraordinary meeting next Monday, will be a further blow to Bae in its attempts to strengthen its finances. If the

move is followed by other defections, a substantial proportion of the issue will be left with Kleinwort Benson, the underwriter, and the sub-underwriters next month. That would depress the share price further.

The manager's disillusionment is echoed by other leading shareholders and suggests that institutions would welcome a bid for Bae to recover some of the losses on their investment.

"A break-up bid for Bae is the most likely way of realising shareholder value at

the moment. The company has potential but I do not expect the share price to improve quickly," said one.

Kleinwort Benson, Bae's broker and the lead underwriter to the rights issue, spent yesterday telephoning the company's main shareholders to gauge their support. While the share issue is almost certain to be approved on Monday by a large majority, fund managers are still lukewarm about Bae's management despite the departure of Professor Sir Roland Smith last week. One Scottish fund

manager said: "The rights issue is necessary to restore the company's finances, but investors were not given adequate guidance about the trading situation. It has still not been made clear to shareholders who is running this company."

Lord Weinstock, GEC's managing director, has told several of the managers privately that he wants to buy some of Bae's operations, but has said he does not want to make a full bid due to the uncertainties in some of its divisions. He described its

regional aircraft business to one fund manager as a potential black hole. Despite this, one of the company's main investors report any bid approaches. Nevertheless, Bae and its advisers are thought to be prepared for a stock market raid to buy up to 14.9 per cent of the company's shares next week.

GEC has already tied up a leading stockbroker firm to go into the market if necessary.

Weinstock ambitions, page 16
Comment, page 25

Amstrad shares hit by Sugar warning

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Amstrad, the electronics group, were marked down savagely yesterday after Alan Sugar, the chairman, said that market conditions have continued to deteriorate in the second half of the calendar year.

The shares fell 10p to 39p in heavy trading after the announcement. Mr Sugar also unveiled a 54 per cent slump in pre-tax profits to £20.16 million for the year to end-June. As expected, there was a £20.4 million exceptional writedown against the value of inventory, mostly relating to the PC2386 personal computer which has had technical problems. The final dividend is held at 1p, making an unchanged 1.4p for the year. Earnings per share fell from 6.1p to 2.5p, leaving the dividend covered 1.8 times.

Mr Sugar told analysts that trading in the first quarter of the current year was down 50

the same period last year although he said that there had been a revival this month. He said pressure on margins resulting from price cutting in personal computers and video recorders "may well result in a very difficult year from a profit point of view unless there is a sudden positive change in our markets." Brokers now forecast an outcome in the range of a £5 million loss to a £5 million profit for the year to end-June.

All Amstrad's major European markets were hit by the recession. One of the few bright spots was satellite dish sales in the UK where Amstrad has an 85 per cent market share. Satellite-related products account for 28 per cent of group sales.

A rationalisation programme brought a 20 per cent reduction in operating costs.

Temps, page 27

Hopes of reviving BCCI are dashed

THE Sheikh of Abu Dhabi has dashed any hope of reconstructing the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International as a going concern by dismissing most of its 1,260 British employees.

All but a few of the bank's staff were laid off yesterday, and BCCI's 24 UK branches have been put up for sale. The Abu Dhabi government, BCCI's main shareholder, said

"there is little real prospect of restructuring the bank as originally envisaged".

The decision marks the collapse of negotiations between the Abu Dhabi authorities and Touche Ross, BCCI's provisional liquidator, to try to reopen the bank.

Touche Ross is now expected to ask the High Court to place the bank in formal liquidation. This would allow the Bank of England's protection scheme to move into operation.

BCCI was closed by the Bank of England and international regulators on July 5 when a massive, systematic fraud was discovered at the bank. The bank was granted a reprieve on July 30.

The statement from Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan al-Nahyan said that efforts would now focus on realising the bank's assets efficiently to protect the interests of its 1.1 million depositors worldwide.



Sheikh Zayed: new focus

Mountleigh directors step down

By MATTHEW BOND

THREE directors of Mountleigh Group who were censured by the London Stock Exchange in August have resigned their executive positions at the company.

Nelson Peltz and Peter May, the two Americans who controversially took control of the property company in 1989 when they spent £70 million on a 22.6 per cent stake, have resigned as executive chairman and joint managing director respectively. Both men will remain as non-executive directors. Clive Strouger, who until yesterday was Mountleigh's chief executive, is to leave the company.

Also stepping down from an executive role as joint managing director is Marc Leland, a representative of the Gordon Getty family trust. Mr Leland was not criticised by the Stock Exchange, but it was the circumstances surrounding the arrival in May of the Getty trust as a Mountleigh shareholder that prompted

the Stock Exchange enquiry. The Getty trust paid Mr Peltz and Mr May 100p a share for half their 22 per cent stake. Two months later Mountleigh unveiled a £96 million rescue rights issue at 25p a share.

The Getty trust and Mr Peltz and Mr May are now deemed to be acting in concert, collectively controlling a 29 per cent stake.

News of the board departures was announced just a few hours before yesterday's annual meeting. The meeting was chaired by Sir Ian MacGregor, who becomes Mountleigh's non-executive chairman.

Although a number of shareholders at the annual meeting were clearly unaware of the boardroom changes, Sir Ian rejected criticism that the announcement had been mishandled. "It was only within recent hours that the final decisions were made," he said.

During the formal business of the

meeting, Sir Ian rejected the Stock Exchange's censure of Mr Peltz and Mr May and its criticism of Mr Strouger. "It is this company's view and my own personal view that those censures and criticisms were wholly unwarranted and inequitable. Nelson and Peter took the very best legal advice before entering into the share sale agreement and were specifically concerned with making sure that they acted within the Stock Exchange's moral code." Later he said there had been no outside pressure for the three men to go.

Sir Ian said Mountleigh's management was being "condemned" and indicated that board numbers were unlikely to remain at the current 14 for long. "We will have a number of redundancies on the board in due course," he said. Mountleigh's shares dropped from 16p to 9p in response to the resignations, recovering later to 14p.

Lloyd's chief unaware of FBI enquiry

By JONATHAN PRYNN

ALAN Lord, the chief executive of Lloyd's of London, said yesterday he knew nothing of FBI and congressional enquiries into the recruitment of names in America.

His comment came after *The Times* reported that the FBI contacted Lloyd's names in America this week and requested information regarding the recruitment activities of Lloyd's agents. The Securities and Exchange Commission launched an investigation into the status of Lloyd's and its membership under American securities legislation earlier this year. A Senate sub-committee is also considering an investigation of Lloyd's activities.

Mr Lord described the involvement of the FBI as an "emotive" issue and that Lloyd's had not been contacted by the agency. "Until I read *The Times* this morning, I didn't know the FBI was amongst us. We have not had any enquiries."

"I can only say that I hope the matter will be dealt with rapidly. Lloyd's derives a lot of its business in the US and this sort of speculation is damaging to us," he said. "It is a matter of the capital base rather than the customers."

Lloyd's is facing growing discontent among North American names, many of whom have been hit by some of the heaviest loss-making syndicates, including Feltrim and Gooda Walker. Two actions have been brought against Lloyd's in American courts, one of them in Denver where it was dismissed.

However, the real battle is likely to begin next week when a group of about 50 names launch an action in the New York courts. The names are being advised by Proskauer, Rose, Goetz and Mendelson, the New York law firm.

Lloyd's is attempting to head off the action by issuing writs for damages in the High Court against three of the potential litigants. Lloyd's argues that the three have violated the terms of their general undertaking when they joined Lloyd's that any legal actions relating to their membership must be pursued through the English courts.

THE NEW GEARED CURRENCY ACCOUNT

Before you gear up for the future, look to the past.

Following the consistent success of our sister company, The ECU Group Limited, in the field of currency debt management, we have appointed them as the trading advisor responsible for the management of our new ECU Geared Currency Account, which will be launched on October 1st 1991.

Successful management decisions by The ECU Group over the past three years have achieved a combined benefit of debt reduction and interest rate savings which now exceeds 38% of initial sums borrowed.

The ECU Group can be justifiably proud of its record, not least because sterling's Trade Weighted Index has actually fallen in excess of 6% over the same time.

They are responsible for managing in excess of £100 million in the foreign exchange markets, no doubt due to a reputation built on results, and are widely acknowledged to be the leading currency manager in this field.

With results like these, can you afford not to look into a new, yet speculative, asset management programme run by these fund managers who have clearly outperformed the market?

ECU FUTURES PLC

YOUR ONLY OPTION FOR FUTURES

29 CHESHAM PLACE, BELGRAVIA, LONDON SW1X 8HL
TEL: 071 245-1010 FAX: 071 235-6599

MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND FUTURES AUTHORITY

To: ECU Futures Plc, 29 Chesham Place, Belgravia, London SW1X 8HL.
Please send me further details of the product particulars and charges of the ECU Geared Currency Account and other services provided by ECU Futures Plc.

Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Country _____
Or you can call me on: Telephone _____ Fax _____

Please note that this prospectus is a summary of the information contained in the ECU Geared Currency Account. It is not intended to constitute an offer of the ECU Geared Currency Account. The ECU Geared Currency Account is a complex financial product and its use involves significant risks. You should seek professional advice before investing in the ECU Geared Currency Account. The ECU Geared Currency Account is not a deposit and is not covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). The ECU Geared Currency Account is not a regulated activity under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000.

Banks to float 3i group for £1bn

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S main banks are finalising an agreement to float 3i, the venture capital investment group. The £1 billion flotation will make 3i the stock market's largest investment trust.

It is expected that the agreement will be signed late next week, after seven years of negotiation and in-fighting over 3i's future. The group is at present owned by a consortium comprising the Bank of England and six leading banks. About 60 per cent of the shares are likely to be offered to the public.

As part of the preparations for the float, 3i will convert itself into an investment trust to avoid paying capital gains tax on the sale of investments. Midland, Lloyds and the Bank of England are likely to sell their entire shareholdings, but National Westminster and Barclays will retain at least part of theirs, depending on the eventual price of the shares.

The agreement will be a significant success for Barings, the merchant bank, which took over as 3i's adviser last spring after SG Warburg failed to persuade the banks to proceed. 3i's board, chaired by Sir John Cuckney, has always favoured a float, but has been unable to push it through.

Once the agreement is signed, Ernst & Young, 3i's auditor, will begin revaluing the company's portfolio of more than 4,000 investments. 3i's net asset value is currently £1.3 billion. The company's advisers will decide on what discount to net assets the shares will be sold. Discounts on current investment trusts range between 10 and 15 per cent, but 3i hopes it can achieve a smaller margin because of its size and the spread of its investment portfolio.

Forte blames Gulf war for £30m in lost profits

By COLIN CAMPBELL

FORTE, the hotel and catering group, where Rocco Forte is chief executive, says the Gulf war cost the company £30 million in lost hotel profits in the six months to the end of July.

In the first three months of the period, Forte made virtually no profits at all, and for the six months it reported pre-tax profits of £42 million (£114 million), on virtually unchanged sales of £1.31 billion. There was no profit contribution from its interest in the Savoy Hotel (£4 million previously), and £2 million (unchanged) was generated from surplus property sales.

Forte is holding its interim dividend at 2.75p a share, declared out of net earnings of 3.8p a share, and says it remains confident that its business "is in very good shape".

The chief executive said the group's cost base had been trimmed, investments were still being made with the longer term in mind, and Forte restaurants division had gained market share.

The group now has 361 Little Chiffs, 87 Happy Eaters, and 79 Harvester outlets. There were plans to extend the Forte Crest hotel chain in mainland Europe, and there had been a 15 per cent profits growth by Gardner Merchant, he added.

Mr Forte said interim figures demonstrated that this year had been one of the most difficult years that the industry has faced.

In recent weeks there had been the first tentative signs of

improvement in some markets, "but we are not yet in a position to predict when trading will return to more normal levels," he said.

Analysts concede that while group profits will be down this year, and there is every prospect that a maintained total dividend of 9.91p a share will not be covered by earnings, there are encouraging prospects of higher profits in the year to end-January 1993, and for a further profit improvement in the 1994 year as the economy picks up.

Forte says its latest interim results "reflect exceptional circumstances". During the period, the level of American business was 80 per cent below previous levels, business from Japan was 75 per cent below previous levels, and for Europe it was 65 per cent down.

Occupancy levels of the group's provincial hotels was six points down in the first half, and those of London hotels were 20 points lower. Since July 31 there had been some recovery in London occupancy levels.

Mr Forte said all the group's core businesses - hotels, restaurants and contract catering - were in markets where there continued to be good prospects for long-term growth.

Because of the reduced cost base, the group would be able to recover quickly when business returned to more normal levels, he added.

Forte shares rose by 8p to 271p.



Good shape: Rocco Forte, yesterday, ready for upturn

Times, page 27

Business failures reach 'plateau'

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE number of firms going into receivership may have bottomed out, but will only start to decline next year after consumer confidence has been restored, according to the latest survey by KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, the accountant.

The cautiously optimistic tone of the survey contrasts with the unmitigated gloom of a report on Monday from Dun & Bradstreet, the business information group, which showed the rate of company failures accelerating in the first half of this year.

The Peat Marwick survey says that while the receivership numbers remained high, they had remained static for three consecutive quarters this year. The total was 3,148 in the first nine months, up 70 per cent on the same period last year. About half were in London and the Southeast.

Tim Hayward, head of corporate recovery at Peat Marwick, gave a warning that in some sectors, particularly property, failures may start to rise again as lenders decide that receivership is the best route to asset disposal.

He said trends appeared to indicate that receiverships had reached a "plateau". Stressing that receiverships were a lagging indicator of the economy's performance, he forecast that present levels would continue until mid-1992 before signs of improvement. "Only after consumer confidence has been restored and spending increased will receiverships tail off."

Despite increased business optimism about economic prospects, the continued climb in unemployment has made the consumer cautious about spending more. Mr Hayward noted that a general election usually boosts consumer optimism.

Desmond resigns the chair at Aer Rianta

DERMOT Desmond, the stockbroker described by Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, as a "business friend" has resigned as chairman of Aer Rianta, the Irish airports authority. He has also agreed to step aside from NCB, the stockbroking firm set up ten years ago and of which he owns 40 per cent, while investigations continue into alleged business scandals.

Mr Desmond, aged 41, referred to the "selective and distorted comments" of recent weeks. He said the harassment suffered by himself and his family had become "intolerable". There were calls for Mr Desmond's resignation from Aer Rianta after it was revealed that he was at the centre of an alleged property scandal said to involve Irish Telecom. An official report said Mr Desmond was involved in the sale of a property site at the centre of the affair.

Kenmare in Ir£3.6m call

KENMARE Resources, the Dublin mineral explorer, is making a deeply discounted one-for-one rights issue, at Ir£5p, to raise Ir£3.6 million (£3.3 million), to finance production at its Aneucabe Graphite deposit in northern Mozambique. The shares fell 24p to 8p. Kenmare also reported an increased pre-tax loss of Ir£408,398 (Ir£366,492) in the year to end-April. There is no dividend.

Renishaw lifts payout

RENISHAW, the Gloucestershire precision metrology and inspection equipment maker, is raising its final dividend from 3.2p to 4p, lifting the total to 6p (4.8p) for the year, despite a decline in pre-tax profits to £11.1 million in the year to end-June, from £13.4 million last time. Turnover slipped from £47.6 million to £45.7 million. Earnings per share drop from 19p to 16.1p.

Cargo buys dealers

CARGO Control, Richard Palmer's car distribution group, is reversing into most of the Thomas Robinson group in a £7.1 million deal. The motor retail business being acquired comprises nine dealerships with 13 franchises.

At the same time, Cargo, which plans to change its name to European Motor Holdings, unveiled a pre-tax loss of £2.72 million in the 15 months to end-March, on turnover of £8.85 million. This compares with a profit of £295,000 in the year to end-December 1989. There was a 18.11p loss per share (4.74p earnings).

Exel buys Dutch firm

NFC, the holding and investment group, said its East Logistics unit had bought Food Express International, the Dutch distribution firm, for £1.5 million cash and maximum deferred payments of £1 million. Food Express, an independent food warehousing and distribution company, has annual sales of around £7.3 million. Exel already has activities in Spain, France and Germany.

International Media boost

INTERNATIONAL Media Communications, USM provider of video services and related equipment, cut taxable losses from £2.38 million to £715,000 in the year to end-April. Turnover was £845,000 (£1.14 million). There was an exceptional debit of £229,000 (£1.48 million). Loss per share was 0.42p (3.13p loss). Again there is no dividend. The company said it had traded profitably this year.

Albert Martin ahead

ALBERT Martin, the Marks and Spencer supplier, increased pre-tax profits by 17 per cent from £454,000 to £532,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover fell from £33 million to £30.7 million and earnings per share rose from 1.5p to 1.8p. The interim dividend has risen from 1.6p to 1.7p. Michael Kidd, the group's chairman, said outcome for the full year would depend on the level of retail demand in the final months of the year. Forward orders for 1992 were at record levels and overseas factories were operating at high capacity. The shares rose 3p to 92p.

Etam puts dividend up to 1.5p

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

ETAM, the fashion retailer that fought off a £121 million bid this year from Oceana Investment Corporation, the South African-controlled group, incurred costs of £1.1 million in defending itself.

The extraordinary item led to a bottom-line loss of £1.48 million despite an improvement in the group's performance at the pre-tax level in the six months to August 8.

Etam made a pre-tax profit of £35,000 (£1.12 million loss) on turnover down by less than 1 per cent to £98 million despite the closure of 16 stores. The loss per share was 0.59p (1.9p loss) and the interim dividend rises to 1.5p (1.2p).

Alan Howard, the group's chairman, said the turnaround had been achieved through strong management of costs and margins despite the severe retailing recession for many years.

Capital expenditure during the first half fell from £7 million to £1.2 million and the depreciation charge fell from £5.6 million to £4.88 million. Gearing fell from 14 per cent to 12 per cent and Mr Howard expects tight control of working capital to have eliminated all borrowings by the year end.

The shares rose 1p to 217p. Oceana, whose stake in the business is around 32 per cent, had been offering 185p a share during the bid that lapsed in August.

US orders cast doubt on upturn

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE bumpiness of America's recovery was underlined in the latest official data, which showed factory orders slipping 1.9 per cent in August, the biggest fall for five months, after a strong surge in July.

Manufacturing has been one of the strongest sectors. A weakening in factory orders would point to problems in sustaining the recovery. Michael Boskin, President Bush's chief economic adviser, said the economy is showing moderate recovery, albeit at a slower pace than between May and July. He said gross domestic product figures for the third quarter, to be published shortly, will confirm continued recovery.

Orders for non-durable goods, such as food and fuel, rose 0.3 per cent in August, after an 0.6 per cent increase in July. But a 3.9 per cent slump in durable goods orders, after an 11.7 jump in July, pushed overall orders into decline. Aircraft and electronics items contributed heavily to the volatility in orders for durable goods.

Mr Boskin said the unemployment rate was expected to remain well above 6 per cent in the report to be issued today. The current rate is 6.8 per cent. New applications for unemployment benefits fell by 10,000 to a seasonally adjusted 430,000 in the week ended September 21.

Securities trading link with Frankfurt to be launched

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

The London branch of a German bank is to set up a direct securities trading link with Frankfurt stock exchange, demonstrating how competition between European exchanges is intensifying.

Hypo-Bank, of Munich, which in Britain owns 50 per cent of Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust, is establishing the link against the background of a more assertive strategy by the Frankfurt exchange, which aims to market its 100 computerised trading system outside Germany.

This is the first time that the system has been exported abroad, and at least one of Germany's largest banks is expected to emulate Hypo-Bank soon. This was introduced in April and enables

investors to place and execute buying and selling orders for the 30 leading bonds and 30 leading shares that make up Germany's Dax index. So far, 95 German banks and brokers are participating in this, which accounts for about 15 per cent of trading. Unlike Seaq, the system operated by the London Stock Exchange, this also includes an automated settlement system, cutting the amount of back-office work involved in securities dealing.

Hypo-Bank says trading will start next Monday, from 8.30am until 5pm; from October 28, trading hours will move forward an hour.

Rüdiger von Rosen, chairman of Frankfurt stock exchange, said at a news conference at Hypo-Bank's London office that the marketing drive was not muscle-flexing, but merely a business decision giving investors direct and efficient access to leading German shares and bonds.

If this catches on among foreign investors, the Frankfurt exchange might regain some of the business lost to London, which accounts for about 10 per cent of trades in German equities.

Attempts to harmonise securities trading and investment regulations throughout Europe have run into difficulties. Southern European countries, including France and Italy, are insisting that regional markets be protected, but Britain, Germany and The Netherlands favour a more free-market regime.

The latest setback for a pan-European market system occurred in May, when Euroquote, a joint venture to develop a common system, was scrapped on the insistence of Britain, Germany and Ireland.

Herr von Rosen criticised attempts by some countries to limit trading to stock market floors. He said that was the main point of dispute in Brussels on the planned Investment Services Directive. "Like the London Stock Exchange," he stressed, "Germany's stock exchanges categorically reject such a compulsory need. This is because it is nothing other than an unsuitable attempt to divorce the stock exchanges from competition."

Standard Chartered, which leads the steering committee of banks, made that clear after comments on Wednesday from Jefferson Smurfit, the

Galliford annual profits fall 38%

By OUR CITY STAFF

GALLIFORD, the construction group, has announced a 38 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £6.39 million for the year to end-June.

The figure was struck after a £2.18 million exceptional charge relating to a loss on a Leicestershire property joint venture.

The core construction division increased its profits from £3.8 million to £4.7 million, but the specialist contracting division saw profits slump from £1.6 million to £55,000.

Completions by the private housing operations were up by 20 per cent but the division's profits were down from £2.6 million to £1.9 million. Material supplies and distribution recorded a loss of £229,000. A final 3.35p (3.3p) dividend makes a total of 4.3p (4.25p) for the year.

Lonrho's BW plan stymied

By MATTHEW BOND

SEVERAL of Brent Walker's banks remain opposed to the rival restructuring plan proposed by Lonrho, the international trading group. As a result, Lonrho's proposals cannot advance.

Standard Chartered, which leads the steering committee of banks, made that clear after comments on Wednesday from Jefferson Smurfit, the

Soviet Union 'can service its debt'

By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE Soviet Union can service all debt contracted or underwritten by its foreign trade bank, and any attempt to reschedule would damage its creditworthiness, according to an analysis by the Institute of International Finance, the commercial banking lobby group.

Horst Schulman, the managing director, said future lending to the Soviet Union and its constituent republics would depend largely on the needs of western banks' corporate customers.

The institute calls for full Soviet membership of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Although the Soviet Union has lost its good name as a credit risk, it has maintained repayments on its \$61 billion foreign debt. A financing gap of up to \$5 billion has, however, been identified by American officials. Deutsche Bank has proposed that a \$5 billion bridging loan should be channelled to Moscow via the Bank for International Settlements.

Viktor Geraschenko, chairman of Gosbank, the Soviet state bank, said in Helsinki last week that the Soviet Union was "not over-borrowed" and had scope to take up extra loans of \$10 billion to \$15 billion. He said Moscow intended to repay \$17 billion this year and the same amount in 1992.

The institute estimates that the Soviet Union will show a current account hard currency surplus of between \$3 billion and \$4 billion this year after a \$3.5 billion deficit in 1990.

Willi Wapenhans, a World Bank vice-president, said in Vienna that eastern and central Europe will need \$20 billion a year in foreign capital until the next century if its economies are to achieve even minimal growth. That figure excludes the Soviet Union.

Nadir 'kept \$27m deal secret'

ASIL Nadir, chairman of Polly Peck, kept a \$27 million deal to sell his shares in the Turkish Impex bank a secret from his creditors for as long as possible, the High Court was told.

Gabriel Moss, QC, for the creditors - eight banks and the Inland Revenue who are owed a total of £80 million - told Mr Justice Millett a number of factors pointed to the conclusion that the sale of the Impex shares to Turkish businessmen was not genuine. The creditors are opposing a bid by Mr Nadir to have their application to have him jailed or fined for contempt thrown out without a hearing on the grounds that it has no chance of success.

They allege the sale of the bank last December and a three-year option agreement for Mr Nadir to repurchase the shares were breaches of a High Court undertaking not to dis-

pose of his assets pending bankruptcy proceedings.

Those proceedings were later dismissed by consent after Mr Nadir agreed to assign the proceeds of the bank sale to his creditors. The purchaser subsequently failed to come up with the money due for the shares.

Mr Moss said that at a meeting last December, Mr Nadir had agreed to pay the creditors in full if given time and to grant them security over the assets he had disclosed.

But the creditors had not been warned of the bank sale, nor had their consent been sought. It was a secret agreement that Mr Nadir had told them about only after it had been in the Turkish press.

Impex was perhaps Mr Nadir's largest asset, Mr Moss said. Mr Nadir might have explanations that would show that the sale transaction was



Nadir: fighting application

not underhand but this was something that should be investigated at a full hearing. "There are all sorts of hypotheses which are consistent with his innocence, but they are not likely," said counsel.

Mr Nadir had kept both the sale and the option agreement

secret as long as possible and had revealed them only when he had to. The secrecy was an important factor pointing to the sale not being a genuine transaction.

Mr Moss suggested that the option agreement was likely to have had a depreciatory effect on the price obtained for the bank.

There had been no attempt to market the bank shares or get a valuation or to make provision for security for payment. The creditors later discovered that Mr Nadir knew the purchasers "quite well".

"One could expect a farmer or an old widow to be taken in by the consideration that it was all between friends but not the chairman of a large public company," Mr Moss said. "It all looks very suspicious indeed."

The hearing continues today.

CANADIAN OVERSEAS PACKAGING INDUSTRIES LIMITED (Incorporated under the laws of Canada)		
PRELIMINARY EARNINGS ANNOUNCEMENT Audited results for the year to 30th June, 1991 (All funds expressed in thousands of Canadian dollars except for the common share data)		
	1990/91 C\$'000	1989/90 C\$'000
Turnover	C\$106,604	C\$93,122
Earnings before Taxation	20,113	16,389
Taxation	3,242	2,154
Earnings after Taxation	16,871	14,235
Less: Minority Interests	332	299
	16,539	13,936
Gain on Sale of Marketable Securities	3,215	3,643
Foreign Currency Gains (Losses)	2,211	(1,985)
Corporate Restructuring Costs	(728)	-
Net Earnings	C\$21,237	C\$15,594
Earnings per Common Share	C\$ 1.21	C\$ 80.89

The Directors today have declared a regular dividend on the 17,578,125 Common Shares in PV payable to Shareholders registered at the close of business on 22nd November 1991 at the rate of 50 cents (Canadian) per share. The comparative figure for 1990 was 45 cents per share. The payment date for this dividend is 12th December 1991.

The Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 30th June, 1991 together with the Notice of the Twenty Annual Meeting will be posted to Shareholders on the 25th October, 1991 with the usual press announcement appearing the same day. The Twenty Annual Meeting will be held on 3rd December, 1991. Full details will be circulated with the Notice of the Meeting.

By Order of the Board, M.C. Johnston, O.C., Director and Secretary.

3rd October 1991.
Suite 1212, Brunswick Square, Gormain Street,
Saint John, New Brunswick, CANADA E2L 4V1

COMPANY BRIEFS

NOREX (Fin)
Pre-tax: £9.8m (£3.16m)
EPS: 29.2p (18.12p)
Div: 2p (1p)

NEW ENGLAND PROPS
Pre-tax: £273,000
EPS: 0.6p (0.7p)
Div: Nil

INTEREUROPE TECH
Pre-tax: £1.40m (£1.44m)
EPS: 14.74p (17.22p)
Div: 5.4p, mkg 7.4p

TOYE & CO (Int)
Pre-tax: £378,192
EPS: 10.6p (10.6p)
Div: Nil (nil)

Turnover grew to £44.2m (£38.4m). There was an extraordinary dividend of £1.12m. Interest payments surged to £5.78m (£1.16m).

Interim results. Last time's profit was £908,000. The directors intend to recommend a final dividend once the year-end results are known.

Final results. Last time's total dividend was 7.4p. Company has initiated a restructuring of a number of businesses.

Last time's profit was £370,768. Sales £8.77m (£8.3m). Budgeted sales and anticipated profits may not be fully achieved for year.

Dreaming of bids and deals

COMMENT

Anyone wishing to bid for British Aerospace would encounter no opposition in the City. The group's leading shareholders split into two main camps: those who have been selling shares and those who would love to sell at an acceptable price after seeing a near 30 per cent drop in recent weeks. Instead, the company is asking its owners to top up their depleted holdings by more than a fifth.

There is, however, no bidder. Some disgruntled holders, especially north of the border, dream of a break-up of BAE as a means of restoring their funds. Even before recent setbacks, BAE's capitalisation was puny against the size of its business. An equity value of £1.1 billion, less than half the book value of £2.55 billion, supports turnover of £10 billion and capital employed of £4 billion. A bidder with funds to support the business, or buyers lined up for bits of it, could therefore afford to be generous.

Well, that is the dream. Feelers were put out. Perhaps Sir John Cuckney's Metsum consortium, which has been in suspended animation since it was created to

counter-attack GEC in its battle for Plessey, could be revived. Perhaps not. Some of the overseas parties needed to break up GEC, such as Thomson of France, are just as interested in BAE. But the climate has changed and important players have changed sides.

GEC wants to be involved, but does not know what it wants to achieve, apart from protecting its markets and keeping its enemies out. Lord Weinstock sees BAE management as weak but does not have the stomach to make a hostile bid. Sir Graham Day, BAE's interim chairman, is in no mood to play GEC's game at this stage.

No decisive moves are likely to be made before the extraordinary meeting on Monday, called to approve the rights issue. Institutional shareholders might like to oppose this. Many are not convinced that the issue will achieve more than tide the business over. BAE could do with

at least double the £430 million it is asking for and which was probably all it could get. Had a new team been in place before the rights announcement, it might have been able to put together a more imaginative package, perhaps combining dividend waivers on the Trafalgar House model with warrants to build up capital later.

As it is, institutions can hardly dispute that BAE needs the money. Few would care to be seen ditching Sir Graham and his board completely by throwing the issue out, even though this would put BAE firmly into play. Fingers would surely point at those in the City selling this critical centrepiece of British manufacturing short.

The challenge facing Sir Graham is to persuade shareholders to back the board

positively. The hype over possible bidders should persuade more to take up their rights. Even if the issue is not left with underwriters, however, there will be many weak holders. Those anxious to take a role in BAE's future will show their hand by buying unwanted rights and shares in the market up to and after the offer closes on October 28. Their first concern may, however, be not who is to own BAE, but who is to manage it.

Joyless IMF

People about to spend an autumn week in Blackpool listening to speeches by Norman Lamont and John Major need something to lift their spirits. But the IMF's unofficial forecast for the

British economy is not going to be quite the fulfilment the Tory faithful have been led to expect. The IMF's widely leaked projection that the UK economy would grow by 2.3 per cent in 1992 has been touted as a great pre-election morale-booster. Not surprisingly, the full forecast is less flattering than the selective leaks.

First the old news. The 2.3 per cent growth rate expected for next year, far from picturing a sudden improvement in the economy, is a virtual restatement of the official forecast published by the Treasury in the Budget last March. Admittedly, the Treasury's forecast only ran up to the middle of 1992, but it showed an annualised growth rate of 2.7 per cent in the first half of the year. Projecting this growth rate forward into the second half of next year would put GDP for 1992 as a whole 2.4 per cent above the likely 1991 level. Neither is the forecast out of line

with private economists' projections. The latest Treasury summary of independent forecasts produced shows a median expected growth rate of 2.1 per cent next year, barely distinguishable from the IMF's projection.

Now, the bad news. The IMF's international comparisons raise some troubling questions. Britain's growth rate next year will be the second lowest among the Group of Seven and it would have been the lowest but for a brief slowdown expected in Germany during the first half. Yet Britain's inflation will still be 3.6 per cent by the fourth quarter of 1992. Instead of crossing over with Germany or converging towards the best in Europe, Britain will again diverge in the wrong direction from Germany and France, both expecting 2.9 per cent inflation. When German central bankers say they are aiming to cut inflation back to 2 per cent, they mean it. The only G7 country faring significantly worse than Britain will be Italy, where inflation will remain around 6 per cent. Italy, it is worth noting, has been an ERM member for almost 13 years.

A new pattern of management takes shape at Laura Ashley

Jim Maxmin, the recently appointed chief executive, has his work cut out. Gillian Bowditch reports



Different approach: Jim Maxmin conducts board meetings kneeling on the floor

JIM Maxmin, new chief executive of Laura Ashley, the struggling fashion and home furnishings group, is the antithesis of the company's founder, who gave her name to the business and a million floaty, flowered dresses. She was a reserved English eccentric. He is an energetic, enthusiastic, American intellectual with an alarming line in transatlantic jargon.

"You just have to love those customers to death," says Mr Maxmin, who gained his PhD in the logical structure of religious language and whom colleagues say is prone to conducting board meetings kneeling on the floor, surrounded by papers.

His approach to retailing is so different from the quickly spoken, ineffectual, bearded men who presided over the group's downturn that the City, which sees a parallel in the Body Shop's Anita Roddick, is prepared to give him and his dynamic ideas the benefit of the doubt.

Mr Maxmin has been in the job three weeks but has already made sweeping changes. Days after reporting interim pre-tax profits of £528,000 compared with £317,000 last time, he announced 100 redundancies among managers and support staff in a restructuring that will cost about £5 million. All senior executives are to spend a day every two months working in a Laura Ashley shop to focus management's attention on the customers and shop staff are to be given incentives to increase profitability.

Since the announcement of his appointment in July, he has visited about 100 Laura Ashley shops. "I've never seen

a business where so many people are able to tell you what is wrong but are not empowered to put it right," he says. Mr Maxmin's favourite trick is to arrive at a store and ask the manager how they would run the shop if they were able to buy it for £1. "They are a bit hesitant at first, but they soon open up and tell you the problems," he says. Some are strikingly obvious. "It doesn't take much

effort to appeal to that other 96 per cent". The group intends to keep its core floral designs, which make up about 30 per cent of the fashion range. The rest of the range will be, in Mr Maxmin's words, "a bit more whacky". Mr Maxmin says the typical customer is thirty-something, well educated and affluent, with a household income of £35,000 or more. The trick is to get these women to part with their cash. Mr Maxmin says the key is simplification. Laura Ashley has, in the past, become over-complicated, over-managed and systems have been duplicated.

The supply chain has been disjointed and feedback poor. The group is spending £10 million over the next two years on global computer systems that will allow the merchandise department to stock the stores with products that will sell. Pricing and positioning will be evaluated.

"We're building the plumbing back into the system," says Mr Maxmin. "We think we know what's wrong and we're convinced we have a programme which can get costs down and volumes up. The worst thing we could do now is sit back and wait for the upturn".

"I've never seen a business where so many people are able to tell you what is wrong but are not empowered to put it right"

to realise that selling tins of paint from our Kensington High Street shop is a dumb thing to do," he says.

Mr Maxmin's job has been made easier by the presence of Andrew Higginson, who joined as finance director in May last year. Mr Higginson has started to cut out unnecessary costs and sell peripheral businesses. He is unashamedly managing the busi-

ness for cash. The new chief executive has also bypassed the balance sheet problems that once threatened to drag the company under and which were resolved in August last year when a 15 per cent stake was sold to Jusco, the Japanese group, for £30 million.

Even so, Mr Maxmin's job will be no picnic. The group is budgeting for no upturn in sales this year and although he declares himself delighted that

the Laura Ashley brand has lost none of its strength, others perceive a lack of clarity in the group's image in recent years. To this end, it has done extensive market research that Mr Maxmin says has helped to identify the typical Laura Ashley customer. "Laura Ashley appeals to around 4 to 5 per cent of the population," he says. "There is no point in us diluting the brand in an

attempt to appeal to that other 96 per cent". The group intends to keep its core floral designs, which make up about 30 per cent of the fashion range. The rest of the range will be, in Mr Maxmin's words, "a bit more whacky". Mr Maxmin says the typical customer is thirty-something, well educated and affluent, with a household income of £35,000 or more. The trick is to get these women to part with their cash. Mr Maxmin says the key is simplification. Laura Ashley has, in the past, become over-complicated, over-managed and systems have been duplicated.

The supply chain has been disjointed and feedback poor. The group is spending £10 million over the next two years on global computer systems that will allow the merchandise department to stock the stores with products that will sell. Pricing and positioning will be evaluated.

Electricity pool rates up 20%

Power pricing 'needs overhaul'

PRESSURE is mounting for a thorough overhaul of the pool price system, which determines electricity prices in England and Wales, after a 20 per cent rise in charges and a series of alarming peak prices.

Professor Stephen Littlechild, the director general of electricity supply, yesterday said peaks during August were "inconsistent with the concept of the pool as an efficient competitive market for electricity... There are increasing grounds for doubt as to whether this particular market is functioning properly."

Professor Littlechild has called for an analysis of the pool system's failings, and proposals to make it work more effectively, from National Grid, which runs it.

The director general said it was important to expose whether price spikes "have been caused by the bidding behaviour of generators, or the mechanisms and rules for converting bids into prices, or a combination of both".

His growing concern coincides with a report from Caninus Energy, the Cambridge consultants, which says

that pool prices during the quarter to end-June were 20 per cent higher than the same months of 1990, even though electricity demand was substantially lower.

Caninus calculates that the increase in charges could add £10 million a year to the costs of a typical electricity supply company — equal to a tenth of their profits last year.

Dr Nigel Evans, of Caninus, said National Power and

mission system operated by National Grid appeared to enable the generators to run high cost power stations, impacting the pool price.

National Power's Fawley plant, on Southampton Water, was often called upon because it was located in an area of high demand in the Southeast, despite the high cost of its fuel.

Dr Evans said the complexity of the pool operations made them "almost impossible" to understand. The entire pool system needed to be re-examined, he said.

In the short term, higher pool prices may cost the generating companies more than they gain, because most of their sales are made at pre-arranged prices through so-called "contracts for differences".

However, higher pool prices over an extended period will enable the generators to negotiate better prices for supplying power under contract next year. The sharp increase in prices will also encourage some large industrial customers to sign firm contracts with generators.

Dr Evans said constraints upon the electricity trans-

mission system operated by National Grid appeared to enable the generators to run high cost power stations, impacting the pool price.

National Power's Fawley plant, on Southampton Water, was often called upon because it was located in an area of high demand in the Southeast, despite the high cost of its fuel.

Dr Evans said the complexity of the pool operations made them "almost impossible" to understand. The entire pool system needed to be re-examined, he said.

In the short term, higher pool prices may cost the generating companies more than they gain, because most of their sales are made at pre-arranged prices through so-called "contracts for differences".

However, higher pool prices over an extended period will enable the generators to negotiate better prices for supplying power under contract next year. The sharp increase in prices will also encourage some large industrial customers to sign firm contracts with generators.

Dr Evans said constraints upon the electricity trans-

mission system operated by National Grid appeared to enable the generators to run high cost power stations, impacting the pool price.

ROSS TIEMAN

NO RISK INVESTMENT

THE SAFE WAY TO REAP THE REWARDS OF THE STOCK MARKET

NATWEST SECURITY PLUS

CAPITAL VALUE GUARANTEED

If you'd like to reap the potential rewards of the stock market, without risking the value of your capital, then NatWest Security Plus service may be the ideal investment for you.

With Security Plus you combine the reassurance of savings with the rewards of investment in insurance based products.

All you need is a lump sum of £2,000 or more which you can invest for a minimum of two years. We'll show you how to maximise the benefits offered by Security Plus according to your needs. For example, you could choose the no risk option that guarantees the return of your original capital whilst taking advantage of any rises in stock market values. Or, if you are prepared to take a small element of risk in your investments, our cautious option offers a potentially much higher return on your money.

The Security Plus service is flexible, and the choice is entirely yours. Whatever you choose, you can rest assured that the

recommendations we give you will be expertly and personally tailored to meet your needs.

To find out more about Security Plus, which is operated by our subsidiary, National Westminster Insurance Services Limited, or the rest of our range of savings and investments, please call us FREE on the number below (Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm, Weekends 9am to 6pm). You can also use this number to arrange an appointment with a NatWest financial adviser, either in a branch or at your home. We'll be looking forward to hearing from you.

CALL US FREE ON **0800 200 400**

(Please quote the reference number shown on the coupon)

The Security Plus Manager, Personal Financial Services, National Westminster Bank PLC, FREEPOST, London EC3B 3JL

National Westminster Bank PLC is a Member of IMRO. Registered Office: 11 Lushington, London EC2P 2BP. The Investment Business of National Westminster Insurance Services Limited is Regulated by the Securities and Investments Board

NATWEST SECURITY PLUS

Please complete and return to: Personal Financial Services, National Westminster Bank PLC, FREEPOST, London EC3B 3JL

Name _____ NatWest Branch (if applicable) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Please send me more information about Security Plus ☐
I would like to discuss my requirements further. ☐
Please arrange for an adviser to call me. ☐

Approximate amount of investment £ _____

National Westminster Bank
We're here to make life easier

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Doctor of philosophy

COMPANY Doctor extraordinaire David James, who on Tuesday unveiled his refinancing plans for Davies & Newman, the Dan Air group, thereby securing its future, now has more than 70 corporate successes to his credit. And no failures. But he admits that he is careful in selecting suitable rescue candidates. As a general rule, he avoids family firms like the plague — "If they have screwed it up once, they will screw it up again and unless they will agree to a more equitable share structure I would be very reluctant" — but he is particularly attracted to companies where the bankers are in an exposed position. "I want to see a shortfall in their security cover. If they are not exposed, they are very difficult to talk to. An exposed bank has to negotiate." Wise words indeed.

SIGN in an office equipment shop in Taunton, Somerset: "Ask not for whom the bell tolls; let the answering machine get it."

French embrace

PETER Alfandary, managing partner of youthful City law firm Warner Cranston, where the average age of the 13 partners is 38 years, this week

became one of the few Britons to have the title of Chevalier in the National Order of Merit bestowed upon him by the French government — for his services to Anglo-French commercial and legal relations. Educated at the French Lycée in London — where he met his wife, Sarena — it was Alfandary who developed Warner Cranston's thriving French division. He is, as yet, undecided whether to send his own children, Adam, 5, and Nathalie, 2, to the Lycée. "We only speak French to them, so perhaps there is no need."

Time out

BIDS and break-ups were forgotten at 3pm yesterday as the City turned its attention to the rugby at Twickenham. Cashing in on the interest was The Ultimate Experience, a corporate hospitality company, which transformed the Whitbread Brewery into a giant viewing — and drinking — venue for 450 stickers.

"The computers are down."

Final flight

THE replacement of the Stock Exchange Council with a new-style board means that for the first time this century there will no longer be a Raven in the tower. One of the many departing council members, Stephen Raven, who first joined it 16 years ago — and, as chairman of the International Equity Markets Committee, oversaw the introduction of Seag — reveals, somewhat sadly, that there has been a Raven at the exchange since Victorian times. His late father, Ernest Raven, was the senior partner of Stocken & Coe, a jobbing firm that became part of Akroyd & Smithers and then Warburgs. Raven, still a director of Garben Equities, the inter-dealer broker, now has time "to look at other business opportunities in the City" — he is particularly interested in pan-European ones.

CAROL LEONARD



Clinton loses £2m at halfway

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

CLINTON Cards, the greetings cards group, previously seen as one of the more resilient retailers in a recession, gave a warning that there would be a material reduction in profits for the year after it made a £2.34 million pre-tax loss for the six months to August 3, compared with a loss of £173,000 last time.

Turnover, excluding VAT, increased by 27.8 per cent to £26 million. The loss per share was 8.99p (0.76p loss). The interim dividend has been maintained at 1.5p.

Don Lewin, the group's chairman, said trading since August 3 had been disappointing but Christmas remained the most important trading time for the group.

Mr Lewin's son Clinton has been appointed group managing director. He joined the group in 1978. Shares in the company fell 6p to 120p.

Building slump squeezes Hewden Stuart interims

By PHILIP PANGALOS

THE extremely depressed state of the construction industry and companies that serve it took its toll of first-half profits at Hewden Stuart, the Glasgow plant hire group.

The pre-tax figure dived from £15.7 million to £8.06 million in the half year to end-July, on turnover down from £113 million to £91 million.

Sir Matthew Goodwin, chairman, described the results as respectable under the circumstances. "Profits are ahead of what most people expected," he said.

All divisions traded profitably, but turnover from the hire side fell sharply. Sir Matthew said the fall had been exacerbated by price reductions of 10 to 15 per cent, which had eroded margins. The level of business in the south of England had not changed in the past six

months, but the recession had spread to the North and Scotland.

The company's short-term prospects would not improve as long as the condition of the construction and housing markets remained grim, although the longer term outlook was brighter.

Sir Matthew said Hewden would batten down the hatches and weather the recession, although he did not expect a recovery until the summer of next year. "We have a good geographic spread and a huge range of plant," he said. "Nobody can touch us."

Earnings per share are down to 2.96p, compared with 5.63p last time, but the interim dividend has been raised slightly to 0.865p against 0.825p last time. The company has no gearing. The shares firmed 4p to 95p.



Goodwin: "batten down"

Sherwood raises dividend

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHERWOOD, the Nottingham lace to lingerie group, is raising its interim dividend from 3.2p to 3.9p after a 28 per cent advance in first-half profits.

Investment in the latest technology, combined with tight managerial and financial controls, helped Sherwood's pre-tax profits to increase to £6.55 million (£5.13 million) in the six months to end-June.

Earnings per share were 26 per cent higher at 26.5p (21p). Despite difficult trading conditions and depressed consumer spending in the United Kingdom, turnover grew by 21 per cent to £55.2 million, with about half of the group's sales coming from outside Britain. The lace division, which accounts for about 70 per cent of group sales, was again the star performer.

The USM-quoted shares advanced by 30p to 665p.

PLEASE SEE VOLUMES			
Vol 1000	Vol 1000	Vol 1000	Vol 1000
Abbey Nat 1,282	Cardbury 707	Lanthe 1,111	Royal Bank 1,325
Ally-Lyons 784	CU 68	Lucas 978	Sainsbury 1,038
Anglian 2,670	Courts 405	MAS 2,884	Scott & N 1,221
ASDA 5,950	Enterprise 520	Maxwell Cn 1,101	Scott Power 7,210
AS Roads 371	Euroland 583	MEPC 533	Seers 2,288
Argyll 1,521	Flaxon 1,082	Midland 577	Severn Trst 3,188
Argy Wagg 331	Fort 6,538	Nati Power 1,808	Shell 2,378
BAA 521	Gen Acc 423	Nat West 1,191	Smith & N 2,032
BET 2,081	GEO 3,284	N W Water 2,121	SK Beach 2,141
BTR 891	Glen 1,334	Nth Foods 763	Sun Alliance 2,141
BAT 1,914	Grand Met 2,213	P&O 444	Tarmac 2,782
Bax 1,988	GUS A 86	Pearson 331	Tate Lye 514
Bass 533	GHE 707	Pedington 16,389	Tesco 1,432
BICC 308	Gulmeas 1,501	PowerGen 3,082	Thomson 1,544
BK Scotland 324	Hanson 2,254	Prudential 4,454	Thomson W 2,718
Bus Circle 282	Hawthor 803	Rent 449	Thomson E 580
BOC 1,221	Hilldown 670	RSC 821	Trallager 724
Boots 2,315	ICI 472	Radcliff 521	United B 1,413
Br Aero 3,328	Indecap 1,279	Reed 1,288	Vodafone 1,781
Br Airways 4,079	Kingfisher 552	Rentel 1,288	Whitbread 1,378
Br Gas 6,080	Lasmo 246	Reuters 1,787	Williams 905
Br Petrol 7,886	Lend Lease 3,074	RUC Gp 64	Wills 904
Br Steel 1,888	Land Sec 2,587	RTZ 1,012	
Br Telecom 5,972	LAG 1,345	R-Royce 3,231	
CBW 811	Lloyds 886	Rothmans 18	

RECENT ISSUES	
Abertoth Split (100p)	110
Adam & Harvey	193
Airbreak Ltd	414-12
Allinvest Res	18
Capital Venture	110
Charmant Smith (175p)	189
Contra-Cyclical (100p)	111
County Smt Inv	98
Culver Hodge (4p)	5
Dayton Blue Chip (100p)	102
EFM Inc Trs (85p)	87
East Germany Inv (100p)	120
Elonbrook	71
Evrosome (225p)	302
Flamingo Emerg Mk	109
Garmore Inc (100p)	113-41
Garmore Cap (100p)	98
Geared Inv (100p)	103
Greenore	220
Headline Book (100p)	138
Highland High Inc	110
Lowland Lumber (250p)	94-5
Manchester Utd (85p)	225
Minor Group (125p)	80-1
Oryx Bank	118-1
Simpson of Cornhill	48
Starting Trs	105-10
Tollgate	108
US Smaller	

See main prices page for Electricity rights

RIGHTS ISSUES	
Hilldown N/P	4-1
Hickson Int N/P	27-8
Record Hodge N/P	12
Starm N/P	1
Third Mile N/P	17-1

(Issue price in brackets)

071-481 1066

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

071-431 9313
071-782 7828



Talented professionals meet an innovative company.

The Society for International Training (SWIFT) is a leading provider of international training and development services. We are currently seeking talented professionals to join our team.

Our training programs are designed to help professionals develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in a global environment. We offer a wide range of courses, including management, marketing, and finance.

We are currently seeking talented professionals to join our team. If you are interested in international training and development, please contact us for more information.

AREA MANAGER FOR TRAINING SERVICES
Based in London, UK. We are seeking a talented professional to manage our training services in the UK and Ireland.

REQUIREMENTS
We are seeking a talented professional with a minimum of 5 years experience in international training and development. The successful candidate will be responsible for managing our training services in the UK and Ireland.

CONTACT
If you believe your qualifications match these requirements, please send your CV to: SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

SWIFT Ltd, 100, Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel: 01-479 1411.

ADVERTISEMENT

Aiglon College Headmaster's Secretary

Aiglon College, the HMC boarding school in the Swiss Alps for 280 boys and girls, wishes to appoint a secretary to the Headmaster. This is a demanding position which carries considerable responsibility and calls for a well-educated, level-headed and flexible person with sound administrative skills, including word-processing. Good written and spoken French are essential. Non-smoker preferred.

Applicants should be prepared to respond to the challenge of working in an international community, in which care for the individual and spiritual values are stressed.

The appointment will be made in December 1991 or January 1992.

Applications should be accompanied by a CV, copies of testimonials, recent photograph and name, address and telephone number of 2 referees.

The Headmaster's Secretary
Aiglon College
1885 Chaux-de-Fonds
Tel: (025) 352721
Fax: (025) 352611

EDITOR / PR AE

German-based Marketing Communications consultancy, with a strong focus on pan-European PR and direct marketing, requires an experienced UK/US editor or AE to advise clients and manage/implement communications programs in the capital goods, industrial components and service sectors.

Applicants should have a PR or editorial background and understand complex technical and business subjects. Fluency in one or more languages (e.g. German or French) is required as well as a long-term commitment.

If you are 30-40 and can imagine being part of a friendly team working in attractive premises just outside Frankfurt, please mail/fax your CV and picture to:

CARAPETIAN & KRÄMER
INTERNATIONAL MARKETING
COMMUNICATIONS An der Technischen 1a
D-60772 Dreieich bei Frankfurt
Fax 49 6103 65465.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

Applications are invited by the Governing Body of the College for the following full-time Statutory post:

Professorship of Classics (Ref: 8591)

Prior to application, further information (including application procedure) may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4 (quoting reference). Telephone enquiries: (+353-1) 2693244 or 1067777 ext. 1412/1653 Fax: (+353-1) 2694409.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Thursday, 21st November 1991.

TWO TRADERS - HONG KONG AND LONDON BASED

SOUGHT BY YOUNG, GROWING COMPANY WITH SHIPPING AND TRADING OFFICES IN LONDON, MOSCOW, SINGAPORE AND HONG KONG. FREEDOM TO EXPAND SMALL TRADING TEAM AND TAKE FULL SHARE IN OFFICE MANAGEMENT. MAIN ACTIVITY OF RUSSIAN MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT SALES TO ASIAN MARKET. PRESENTLY DEVELOPING CONSISTENT SALES. PURCHASERS FOR SOVIET CLIENTS AND SOVIET RAW MATERIAL SALES. PROVEN EXPERIENCE REQUIRED IN: - PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT - CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND FULFILLMENT - FINANCE, DEBITORS AND CREDITORS LC'S - MONITORING AND CONTROLLING DELIVERIES - BUYER MANAGEMENT AND PAYMENT OF TEAM FOR HONG KONG POSITION. EXPERIENCE OF SOVIET AND ASIAN TRADE A BENEFIT AND EARLY AVAILABILITY PREFERABLE. FOR LONDON POSITION EXPERIENCE OF SOVIET, EUROPEAN, AFRICAN AND AMERICAN TRADE A BENEFIT. EARLY 1991 AVAILABILITY PREFERRED. PLEASE APPLY TO: BOX NO 5460.

INTERNATIONAL SALES REP.

LEADING MOBILE RADIO CONSULTING FIRM PRESENTLY SERVING SOME OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST CELLULAR NETWORKS SEeks SALES REPRESENTATIVES FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES. SPECIALIZED TEST EQUIPMENT AND SPECIALIZED SOFTWARE SALES TO CELLULAR MOBILE RADIO OPERATORS. BENEFITS: HIGH INCOME, FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS, TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES IN EUROPEAN TELECOM INDUSTRY. UNIVERSITY LEVEL EXPERIENCE IN SALES/ENGINEERING. EXTENSIVE TRAVEL. PLEASE SUBMIT CV & SALARY REQUIREMENTS IMMEDIATELY TO: A STEPHAN, MANAGER INTL. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, ICG INC, 230 CLARINGTON BLVD, 803 ARLINGTON, VA 22201 TEL: (703) 216-7239 FAX: (703) 216-4828

PASSPORT TO PARIS

If you have fluent French and a good sales and marketing background, this International Company needs your management skills to promote their prestigious range of offices in the heart of Paris. Great 220k+ commission and excellent benefits. Contact Toni Harvey at Brook Street: 071-481 2820.



THE SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST

is Hong Kong's leading English Language newspaper

The classified post carries the largest volume of advertising in Hong Kong. It can sell your property, fill your vacancies and introduce you to the world of Hong Kong business.

Use us to get your message across to Hong Kong.

Contact our representative in London. The Colin Turner Group on 071-490 5551 or us direct.

South China Morning Post
Classified Advertising Department
6/F Morning Post Building
28 Tong Chong Street, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong.
Tel: 852 565 8822. Fax: 852 565 7272.

BETTER PAPER. BETTER JOBS
CLASSIFIED POST

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, SULTANATE OF OMAN

The Director and Chief Executive Officer of a prominent local Bank requires an experienced Executive Secretary. The position is busy, interesting, varied and demanding and involves dealing with a multi-national staff. You would be totally responsible for the smooth running of the CEO's diary and correspondence, and must also make extensive travel arrangements and appointments worldwide. Minimum age 25 years with audio and shorthand experience preferred.

Sporting and recreational facilities in Oman are excellent, with squash, tennis, netball, swimming, water sports, etc., so the job would obviously appeal to someone with those interests. The weather in Oman allows year round participation.

Package includes a salary of £12,000 per annum tax free paid in local currency, furnished accommodation, Bank car, bonus, 4 weeks' leave annually plus paid air fares.

Please send written applications and CV to: Box No. 5526
Fax: 010 968 796400

STOCK MARKET

Lack of lead from New York adds to decline in London

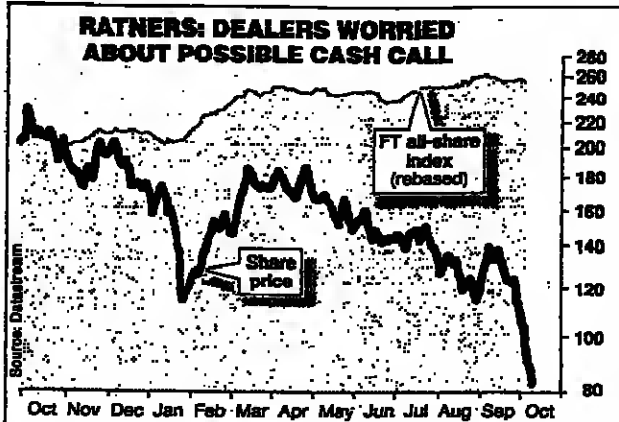
THE investment policies of City fund managers were kicked into touch as many of them made their way to Twickenham for the opening game of the Rugby World Cup between England and New Zealand.

Share prices in London made a hesitant start after a disappointing performance overnight in New York, where dealers appeared uncertain about the direction of interest rates. Most experts had forecast a further softening by the Fed today.

As a result, prices in London never fully recovered and drifted on lack of support despite this week's confident start to the account. The FTSE 100 index closed just above its worst of the day, with a loss of 18.6 points to 2,625.6, after the Dow Jones industrial average suffered a fall of almost 14 points during the first hour.

Government securities were little changed on overnight levels as hopes of an early cut in interest rates began to fade. British Aerospace touched 437p, up from 415p, on persistent claims that Lord Weinstock's GEC will make a bid for the company. BAE said the story was being encouraged by third parties whose interests may differ sharply from those of BAE. The City has taken the view that GEC would overmake a bid for the entire company. Market-watchers say the story has helped prop up BAE shares before Monday's crucial extraordinary meeting to approve the group's controversial £430 million rights issue. GEC eased 2p to 197p.

Among leaders, BOC Group, the industrial gases and healthcare group, fell 16p to 597p after Hoare Govett, the stockbroker, decided that the shares were looking overvalued after their recent strong performance. But Hoare is



taking a bullish view of prospects at London International Group, the Durex manufacturer, 5p stronger at 282p.

British Airways advanced 4p to 190p, helped by an upgrading of pre-tax profits by Charterhouse Tinsley, the broker. The new figure is thought to be £130 million, up from £103 million, for the current year. Ratners Group, the jeweller, continued to reel from

Automated Security Holdings, the burglar alarm group, saw 7.8 million of its shares change hands as the price jumped 9p to 184p.

There is talk of a bid of 240p a share, or assets as in America. Secom Investments, the Dutch group, is thought to have added to its 2.8 per cent stake.

Wednesday's credit downgrading by Moody's with a fall of 22p to 82p. The prospect of the group paying more for its borrowings has forced analysts to reassess current year forecasts. UBS Phillips & Drew has cut its annual pre-tax profit estimate to £50 million (£110 million). Williams de Broe, the rival broker, also refuses to rule out the possibility of a rights issue this

year in order to reduce debts of more than £500 million. Pilkington, the glassmaker, fell 4p to 144p after Nomura, the Japanese securities house, cut its pre-tax profits forecast for the current year from £110 million to £85 million and for next year by £40 million to £125 million. But Capenhurst, one of the company's joint brokers, believes the shares' fall has been overdone.

The absence of any rights issue with half-year figures lifted Forte, the hotel and leisure group, 10p to 273p. Pre-tax profits fell from £114 million to £42 million, with Rocco Forte, chief executive, talking of the worst trading conditions in living memory.

Amstrad, the consumer electronics business, fell 7p to 41p despite full-year figures at the top end of City expectations. Pre-tax profits were more than halved at £20.1 million. However, Alan Sugar, the chairman, gave a warning that profits were being squeezed by the tight margins on personal computers and video recorders.

Montleigh, the troubled property developer, touched 9p before rallying to close 1p lighter at 15p after news of four boardroom resignations.

By MICHAEL CLARK

Hang Seng sets record after talk of rates cut

Hong Kong - The Hang Seng index closed at a record 4,093.41, up 31.34 points, after speculation about a local interest rate cut. The previous high for the index was 4,079.01, reached on August 14 this year.

A broker at a British firm said: "The market's tone will continue to be firm until tomorrow, when the banks decide whether or not to cut interest rates." She added that share prices would continue to trade at current levels today, but consolidation might emerge early next week as the index had risen more than 200 points from its recent low.

Brokers said profit-taking in mid-morning pared early gains, but persistent buying in the afternoon lifted the index again. They added that talk of interest rate cuts helped lift buying interest on Guoco Group, a second-line banking stock that closed 7.5 cents higher at HK\$12.125. Turnover was HK\$1.65 billion (£122 million).

New York - Blue chips eased in late-morning activity, sending the Dow Jones industrial average down 13.41 points to 2,999.11, below the psychologically important 3,000 level. Some futures-related selling forced shares out of their tight morning range, but blue chips recovered slightly from the session's worst levels.

Tokyo - Shares chased the strong yen upward, shuffling off fears of overheating and news that Ryutaro Hashimoto, the finance minister, planned to resign. The Nikkei average rose 336.33 points, or 1.38 per cent to 24,711.44, with an estimated 600 million shares traded.

Singapore - The Straits Times industrial closed at 1,359.41, up 2.37 points.

Sydney - The all-Ordinaries index rose 3.2 points to 1,585.

Frankfurt - Closed for the German Unity Day holiday. (Reuters)

Shareholders find Sugar's words a bitter pill to swallow



Bearer of bad news: Alan Sugar of Amstrad

THERE cannot have been many examples of a share price falling nearly 20 per cent after an announcement of profit figures ahead of market expectations, but it happened to Amstrad yesterday.

The scale of the selling, with about 2 per cent of the company changing hands and James Capel, the house broker, in the van, was a direct result of the bleak picture Alan Sugar painted for the short-term outlook.

Pre-tax profits of £20.2 million for the year to end-June after a £20.4 million exceptional writedown against inventory was in many respects a creditable performance in a very difficult market. However, the expected consumer recovery has not materialised and first-quarter sales are down on the same period last year. Dumping of personal computers and video recorders at below cost prices by competitors continues, with the resulting devastating impact on margins.

Such was the pessimism in Mr Sugar's statement and comments at the morning analysts' meeting that most followers will be relieved to see any profits at all from Amstrad at the end of this year. Mr Sugar could, however, be playing a cunning game with his old adversary, the City. By getting the bad news spectacularly and fully into the price today, Amstrad would benefit from upgrades later in the year should a recovery materialise. If not, Amstrad could not be accused of false optimism.

On fundamentals, Amstrad's position could be worse. At least the balance sheet has its usual robust appearance, year-end net cash standing at £59.6 million. Satellite dish sales are holding up well, with 950,000 sold last year. There also seem to be plenty of products in the pipeline, with colour flat screen technology perhaps the best long-

term prospect, though new products can bring problems as well as potential.

At 40p, the shares are at a substantial discount to the 56p net assets. They could prove a sale bargain for those with faith in the company. Others might prefer to pass the bargain by.

Next

DAVID Jones, the chief executive of Next, is fed up with the description of his retail group as an "ailing company". Covalencing is a term he prefers but one glance at the figures show that Next is covalencing only so far as it is off the life support machine.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to end-July were £200,000, down from £2.3 million in the first half of 1990, which in turn was down from £16.2 million in the first half of 1989 and from £30.9 million in the first half of 1988.

At least, the alarming write-offs which became a

feature of the Next results in recent years have stopped. Extraordinary losses for the whole of 1990 exceeded £200 million.

Turnover in the first half fell from £420 million to £220 million as a result of the disposal of the Grattan mail order business. The operating loss was £300,000 compared with profits of £6.7 million but the reduction in borrowings after the Grattan sale meant that Next had interest receivable of £500,000 compared with interest payable of £4.4 million.

There were no earnings per share, compared with earnings of 0.44p last time, and there is no interim dividend (0.7p).

The Next shops made a £1.9 million loss on sales of £125 million, a £500,000 improvement on last time. Next Directory profits doubled to £1.4 million.

There are still doubts as to whether the group will pay a final dividend and the shares, up 3p to 47p, are

trading on 36 times earnings assuming full-year profits of £5 million. Until basic trading problems are resolved, the shares are unlikely to outperform.

Forte

THE doom at Forte's hotels and restaurants could be left kicking their heels for a while yet until the tourists return, and group profits for the year to end-January are going to be down.

A £30 million direct hit on hotel profits from the Gulf war, and further damage from the recession, left Forte's pre-tax profits in the six months to end-July down 63 per cent at £42 million, clipping the cover on the maintained 2.75p interim payment to 1.05 pence.

But at least gearing remains at a manageable 41 per cent, thoughts of a rights issue have now dissipated and profit recovery hopes in the 1993 and 1994 financial years give analysts reason to hang on, even though Forte will have to make and sell a lot of sandwiches before gross trading profits overtake last year's peak level of £348 million.

Forte has, however, eliminated £30 million of annualised permanent costs through rationalisation, too fresh contracts within its contract catering division, and has all but maintained profits within restaurants.

The pre-tax (and property) profits profile this year suggests around £100 million (£187 million), with profits rising to £190 million in 1993, and to £230 million in the year to end-January, 1994. A maintained total dividend this year of 9.91p a share would not be covered, and the prospective 1992 p/e of 30, based on 271p, up 8p, looks healthy. However, 1993 and 1994 prospective ratings of 14.6 and 11.3 respectively, table bookings over at 271p a share should prove rewarding.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

Staten										Staten New York May New York May										
Staten	Oct	Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct	Jan	Oct	Jan
AM Lows	550	77	83	119	4	15	29		Praderland	200	10	23	28	5	9	13				
"ASD	600	35	60	78	2	3	31	37	"(243)	240	60	17	18	13	21	24				
"ASD1	600	35	60	78	2	3	31	37	"(243)	240	60	17	18	13	21	24				
"ASD2	40	13	10	17	7	12	5	15	Round Pitt	31	8%	11			3					
"ASD3	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD4	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD5	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD6	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD7	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD8	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD9	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD10	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD11	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD12	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD13	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD14	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD15	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD16	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD17	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD18	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD19	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD20	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD21	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD22	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD23	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD24	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD25	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD26	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD27	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD28	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD29	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD30	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD31	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD32	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD33	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD34	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD35	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD36	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD37	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD38	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD39	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD40	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD41	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD42	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD43	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD44	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD45	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD46	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD47	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD48	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD49	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD50	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD51	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD52	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD53	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD54	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD55	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD56	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD57	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD58	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD59	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD60	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD61	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD62	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD63	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD64	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD65	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD66	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD67	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD68	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD69	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD70	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD71	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD72	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD73	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD74	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD75	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD76	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD77	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD78	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD79	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD80	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD81	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD82	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD83	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD84	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD85	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD86	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD87	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD88	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD89	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD90	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD91	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD92	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD93	50	6	10	15	4	5	15	17	"(358)	33	5%	5%			3%					
"ASD94	50	6	10																	

Rolls
PLATINUM

P

PLATINUM

Below the main title, there is a large, empty rectangular box, possibly a placeholder for a signature or stamp.

At the bottom of the page, there is a smaller, rectangular box with a grid-like structure, likely a table or form.

MONEY MARKETS

High Low Company				Prior	Close				Yld	F/E			
				Mo									

[illegible]

SAAB
APPROVED
USED CARS

DM finds its slot in the market

TEC resources spent on helping franchises would be a good investment, the association believes.

081 742 2828

MR. FRIDAY

"First the good news — the recession is over —

The result is that the business, which started in the bedroom of Mr Smith's Canterbury home, and which had sales of about £15,000 in the first year, now has a turnover of more than £500,000 a year, exporting around the world. The company has graduated to



premises on a small industrial estate in St Nicholas, near Margate, and has a workforce of nine. Staff levels and the need for more production space are minimised by the use of sub-contracting. Mr Smith realised early that the narrow field of servicing agricultural weighing systems was not sufficient for the expansion he wanted. Nevertheless, his first

A system designed by the firm was so successful that DM's turnover doubled that year from £80,000 to £160,000. That was a

He said: "I ploughed my savings into it at the beginning and overheads were minimal because, to start with, it was purely a service industry. Since then, I have reinvested as we have gone along. We have never had to borrow for the business."

BEAMTOWN ROAD, BANBURY, OXFORDSHIRE OX16 7RN; telephone 0295-272272. The guide looks at cash flow planning, the control of expenses, the use of credit control methods and ways of finding new cash.

EDITED BY DEREK HADDIS

EDITED BY DEREK HARRIS

FAX 071-481 9313
071-782 7828

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

\$25,000 - \$50,000 sought for private financial advisory firm. Secured loan with co-option. Prefer individuals related business. Principal, 271 322, 8629

J. Stachurska, MD, ASC Group
24 Road Lion Street,
London WC1R 4SA
Tel: 071 631 6191

WORK FROM HOME
Very high weekly income
possible. Interesting work
Training given.
S.A.E. to:
DEPT TTM
18 WILLOW CLOSE
BURTON JOYCE
NOTTS NG14 5FF

MOTORS LEASING

COUNTRYWIDE
Fleet Management

**HP & LEASE
TAKEOVERS
TODAY!**

VEHICLE ON FINANCE SURPLUS TO REQUIREMENTS?
SETTLEMENTS UNREASONABLE?
LET US TAKE OVER FREE?

**ANY VEHICLE CONSIDERED
PRIVATE/BUSINESS USERS WELCOME**

**NEED A CAR TODAY?
INSTANT CREDIT
LOW DEPOSIT (drive away)
EVERYONE WELCOME**

(0625) 503065

DEBT PROBLEMS

Company with excellent reputation trading with financial companies liquidator and private bookmaking chairs requires more work. Repossessions, auctions, valuations and storage all within services currently offered.

Call Alan Ratnowsky & Sohn
Limited Tel: 0462 879161
Fax: 0462 879161


UNDER PRESSURE?

We buy and restructure companies even if insolvent. There is no need to have sleepless nights through business worry. We can help no matter what the problem.

For confidential service telephone (0225) 333282.

[illegible]

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
In wholesale sandwiches & fast foods. Earnings \$35K+ first year. Limited capital investment.
For details ring
081-941 7111


THE CROMBIE POSTAL SERVICE
• Homebased
• Homebased delivery from 30 states
• No experience necessary
• Intensive training
• Excellent growth & flexible hours
• Expert guides & marketing cards
• Free franchise package (USPS)
• No franchise fees
Call for details
Ring 081-422 0606

**SEE FIRST YEAR
PROFITING DATE 08/90/USPS
TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
P.L.C. NOW appointing
Regional Directors, £2,500
minimum investment
to start your own, full
training and all leads.
CALL 0855 428730 or
0800 429293.

**LEARN AND earn about the
major African business, call
0800 429293.**

If your small business is turning into a growing concern, we've a neat solution.

All big businesses have to start somewhere. That's where we come in. As a recognized **Sege Development Centre** we have all the expertise and the software that you'll ever need at our fingertips. When you start up, let us explain how **Sterling** can move your accounting system from the shoe box into the 90's. And when you broaden your horizons we'll suggest you explore **multi-venue** versions of **Sterling**, the most flexible modular accounting system on the market. So remember, when you're on the way up, we'll be **with you** all the way.

COMSPEC

Tel: 041 812 7778 Fax: 041 812 4981
Or write to: 100 Holmes Court, Enniscorthy PWS GBH


ATTENTION ALL DIRECTORS

Improve your Company's profitability by participating in our:

- Sea Air & Land Group
- International Freight
- Forwarders
- Export - Import
- and Insurance

Companies Worldwide

Sea Air And
Land Comp
Unit 10
Lansdown's Road
London W9 1TB
TEL: 01-581 9111
4998



SEGE HELP Vets experienced sales and marketing director available 0245 261 077

SECURE is your company in a nutshell. It gives you a reliable, easy way to take over your business, company or trade, in 100% training. Tel: 0553 721609.

Your branch office in Germany, first class mail forwarding service.

FAX: West-Germany +449 4185 5237 or FAX: +449 4185 5235

ACCOUNTANT - Hands-on, hard working FCA with 10 years experience available for short/medium term contracts. Excellent problem solving, no challenges! 100 client, 100% 100% success. **MAILLEY FIRST** Business Address in addition to our present address we offer a full business service. Looking for a new office space, please contact us via our managers hotline 077 937 5555

SALES and marketing Executive based in London and the West Country, will sell/market your product for export. Immediate start. Telephone: London 061 866 1000 Fax: London 061 866 1001. Also 0800 979 444.

[illegible][illegible]

101	201	301
102	202	302

122	222	-
-----	-----	---

Rugby union begins to change for better or worse



Carling: in reflective mood

THIS was the moment when rugby union hoped to become seriously important. High profile, globally competitive, big money. What we got was defensive, boring and unexceptional. Too often, that is the price when ball-games become long on prestige and short on fun.

Whether the game of rugby will be better for what happens to it during the next month remains to be seen. Certainly, it will change. The World Cup is taking rugby down a road from which there is no turning back. You cannot generate nearly £40 million and expect the game to remain the same: some welcome this change, others are sad.

The argument raged yesterday evening, among the cognoscenti, oo whether or not Jim Fleming of

Scotland, the referee, had spoilt the opening match. Rugby is entering the same arena as its football counterpart. The more important the event, the more players under stress are inclined to break the law, and the more need there is for referees to be seemingly pedantic. Immediately, up goes the cry: "Ruined the game!"

Make no mistake, the more rugby moves away from being a limited game totally dominated for 100 years by an effective first division of only eight countries, the more controversial — being a violent, physical sport — and defensive it is likely to become, with the good teams playing the percentages more than ever. Why should rugby union be any different from football, tennis or cricket?

The plus side of development arising from the World Cup will be the widening of the game's appeal, a rise in the standard of so-called second division countries, an expansion of grass roots in all countries. Yet the day will come, perhaps not for 20 years, when the home countries are no longer sure of a place in the top flight.

New Zealand yesterday did not entertain anyone, except other teams' coaches. In most departments, they performed 15-20 per cent better than England. Their superiority was not in the adventure of their strategies but their sheer efficiency. "Very physical, very direct," Will Carling, the captain of England, reflected. Precisely. Don't expect frills. This is the World Cup.

Moments later, Geoff Cooke,

the manager, was talking, predictably, about the need to qualify for the quarter-final, to win the next two games. We have heard all this before elsewhere. The language of the professional: let's take it one game at a time.

For most of my journalistic life, international rugby has enjoyed a self-confidence among the "big clubs" and it is only possible in what, until now, has been virtually a closed shop. Never mind the game was often played at a low technical standard, the senior officials remained content to the point of being smug because they were almost immovable hierarchy, on and off the field. The World Cup will change that.

I recall *The Times* rugby correspondent 30 years ago returning to the office on a Friday afternoon to compose his preview of a five nations' match, having watched England practising, in all seriousness, against the selectors who had removed their City jackets and scrummed down in their braces. Such was true amateurism.

Vivian Jenkins, the now-retired doyen of rugby correspondents, recently acclaimed the era in which the Rugby Football Union treasurer deducted an "excessive one penny charged on a player's expenses. For better or worse, the World Cup will irrevocably change that, though the commercial ambience has already shifted a long way.

The headmaster of Rugby School, in his message read by

Prince Edward at the opening ceremony, hoped that the real victor of the World Cup would be the game itself. Well, the game will certainly expand and will become technically more efficient, yet if the curtain-raiser yesterday is any guide, it will not necessarily be better to watch, now that qualifying and winning are paramount.

The charm of rugby union for over a century is that the players, whatever their rivalries on the field, have been good friends, and this relationship has extended to the crowds, as we witnessed yesterday with the opening march-past of such famous oldies as Hugo Porta, of Argentina, Bill Beaumont, Ollie Campbell, Gerald Davies and others. If the sport were to lose that, the World Cup would have done no good at all.

New Zealand make successful start

England 12
New Zealand 18

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE World Cup is a relatively new tournament, but, after the pomp and pageantry was over, an old story was played out under heavy skies at Twickenham yesterday. New Zealand, although far from their best, injected extra pace into the second half and outlived England's prime strength, the lineout, which proved enough, just, to win the first game of the competition.

This victory over England by a goal and four penalty goals to three penalties and a dropped goal was no classic and I dare say the tournament organisers, and certainly the crowds, will be hoping for greater excitement over the next month, but we should not have expected more from the start of what both countries hope will be a tolerably long journey. As Alex Wyllie, New Zealand's coach, said afterwards, it was like the first match of a tour, when winning is more important than style.

The rain that fell for an hour shortly before the opening ceremony exacerbated the obvious tension which afflicted both teams during the first half, but the saving grace for New Zealand was that they



Mullin out, page 36
Renovated Romania, page 36
Composed Australia, page 36

were strong enough to play much of the match in the opposing half. Even when England made inroads, Grant Fox could be relied on to drill them back, and it says much for England that they were able to turn round with a 12-9 advantage.

That, however, was when the All Blacks imposed the additional element of control this game had cried out for. They began to play the game more quickly, using snap lineouts to keep England thinking, and introduced variations that bore out Wyllie's words earlier this week: "We don't usually lose the lineout." A couple of catches by McDowell at the front, some invaluable takes by Ian Jones in the middle gave New Zealand their platform.

Admittedly, there were times when possession appeared to be a liability, so frequently were the ball-carriers penalised by a referee zealous to keep players on their feet. Jim Fleming was only carrying out instructions given to all the tournament referees, but there is a fine line in the judgements involved about players going to ground accidentally or deliberately.



Slipping the All Blacks' grasp: Hill gets the ball away from Ian Jones, of New Zealand, during yesterday's tight encounter at Twickenham

There was, in the end, no great imbalance in penalties awarded, but a more vital distinction came in the scrums, where the All Blacks derived a huge advantage of 19 awards against only five.

That, in turn, allowed Backop to play a finely-judged game. The scrum-half has his critics, but they should have kept their thoughts to themselves yesterday, particularly in view of the part he played in the game's only try. That involved a set-piece move which the Australians do well, only they usually send in the wing to score. At Twickenham, it was the wing forward, Michael Jones: Innes provided the pivot at a set scrum and Backop looped him before feeding Kirwan. His inside pass allowed Jones to cross unopposed.

From that moment, England had a mountain to climb. Their possession was limited and their handling erratic; that the fine tuning of their game was absent, as they had feared, was shown when, in the dying moments, Underwood came screaming off his blind-side wing through the midfield only to find that the short pass from Carling, under severe pressure, never came his way. None the less, there were

heartening aspects to England's game, upon which they may now build against Italy and the United States before a (presumed) quarter-final against France in Paris on October 19. The scrum held up well, the back row covered the field and some of the midfield tackling was from the top drawer. New Zealand were not afraid to run the ball, but when looking to work space for Kirwan and Wright, Webb proved equal to the task which was more than Kirwan did when Oti bounded past him and two further tacklers before being hustled into touch.

The volume of support, from the moment the stadium stood to England's entry, was heartening, too. The crowd was rewarded by a penalty from Webb in only the second minute, but, almost to underline the fact that this was to be no try-riddled romp, Fox levelled from close range and the kickers continued to dominate the scoring.

The All Blacks, who lost Brooke in the second half with a twisted knee, will have been less than satisfied with some missed touch-kicks, particularly after the wind had dropped, but they could argue that they prevented England

coming close enough to threaten their try-line. However, Webb was able to trade kick-for-kick with Fox — indeed, New Zealand's stand-off half missed twice before the interval — and Andrew dropped a 30-metre goal from a tapped penalty to give his side a valuable advantage going into the second half.

Whether the All Blacks deserved to be awarded the scrum from which they worked their try is contentious, but England may well feel that they were not out of place on the same field as the world champions. They will get better. So will the All Blacks.

SCORERS: England: Penalties: Webb (3), Dropped goal: Andrew; New Zealand: Try: M. Jones; Conversion: Fox; Penalties: Fox (4).
ENGLAND: J. M. Webb (Bath); R. Underwood (Leicester); W. D. C. Carling (Leicester); J. C. G. Gossop (Bath); C. C. (Worcester); C. R. Andrew (Worcester); R. J. Hill (Bath); J. Leonard (Leicester); B. C. Moore (Leicester); J. A. Probyn (Aldershot); M. C. Tregan (Gloucester); P. J. Asford (Leicester); W. A. Doolley (Preston Grasshoppers); P. J. Witherby (Leicester); D. Richards (Leicester).
NEW ZEALAND: T. J. Wright (Auckland); J. Kirwan (Auckland); C. R. Innes (Auckland); J. McCull (Auckland); J. H. R. T. T. (Cheltenham); G. J. Fox (Auckland); S. C. McDowell (Auckland); S. S. (Auckland); J. W. Loe (Auckland); A. J. Whitton (Auckland); I. D. Jones (North Auckland); G. W. Whitton (Auckland); M. N. Jones (Auckland); Z. V. Brooke (Auckland); rep. A. T. East (Auckland).
Referee: J. M. Fleming (Scotland).

Pool one										
	P	W	O	L	F	A	Pts			
N Zealand	1	1	0	0	12	12	3			
England	1	0	1	12	12	1	1			
Italy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
US	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Remaining fixtures: Tomorrow: Italy v United States (City); Oct 5: England v New Zealand (Twickenham); Oct 6: New Zealand v Italy (Leicester); Oct 11: England v United States (Twickenham); Oct 12: New Zealand v Italy (Leicester).										
Match facts										
Territorial advantage: England 26min, New Zealand 55										
Possession: England 30min, New Zealand 51										
Scrums										
	Award	Won	Ag	Had	Void					
England	5	2	0	3						
NZ	19	12	0	3						
Lineouts										
	Award	Won	Void							
England	18	17	2							
NZ	25	22	2							
Penalties/free kicks										
	Award	Won	Goal	Miss						
England	14	2	4	3						
NZ	14	2	4	3						
Stand-off halves										
	Run	Kick	Pass							
Andrew	2	10	11							
Fox	0	11	14							
Kicks at goal										
	Goal	Con	Miss							
Webb	4	3	2							
Fox	2	5	2							
Andrew succeeded with his one drop goal attempt										
Statistics supplied by Unileys										

Carling looks on

WILL Carling, the England captain, refused to be downhearted by their 18-12 defeat. "It wasn't a disaster," Carling said. "There was plenty there to be encouraged about — and it's only the start of a long tournament."

"We will have to play a lot better and a lot faster than we did to win the grand slam. We also have to make a lot fewer mistakes. This event will be played at more pace by fitter and more practised sides."

Carling felt that the All Blacks would improve as the competition wore on. "I think there's a lot left in this All Black team," he said. Geoff Cooke, the England manager, said: "They just turned the screws on us." He was annoyed about the number of "unacceptable" penalties England had conceded.

Gary Whetton, the New Zealand captain, said: "It wasn't a World Cup-winning performance, but it was a stepping stone. Overall, we're just pleased to get the win, because it took us time to settle and they did us down for a while. In the end, when we began to take control, I think we were unlucky not to score a few more times."

ITV get it all right on the day

By HENRY KELLY

WELL done, ITV! You did rugby proud and covered the proceedings of the opening stages — and first match — of the Rugby World Cup in perfect, solid fashion.

"Solid", applied to television coverage of anything more exciting than a party political broadcast, sounds like an insult. I do not mean it so to be I was, in truth, relieved by yesterday's first coverage of the live event.

The preliminary coverage, which had Frank Bough and a few has-beens from international rugby, did not augur well. At the weekend, Bough had Gordon Brown, Gareth Chilcott and David Kirk sitting on a panel looking for all the world like men about to fail an audition on *Blind Date*. Norra lora fun in that. But by yesterday afternoon, shortly before kick-off, all seemed to be well.

Bough did wear the air of a man who could tell you he'd just won the Premium Bonds and make it sound like bad news. Nerves, I suppose. From Frank Bough? Do me a favour! It looked to me more like as if, as you would expect, everybody involved in the television coverage of this remarkable event was genuinely concerned to get it right on the night.

There were those both in rugby and in television who hankered after BBC coverage of rugby simply because we have all been used to it. We would miss Bill McLaren, surely. We would miss the laid-back BBC approach and, in a strange undefinable way, we would miss something about BBC coverage which, like an elephant, we would be able to recognise but not able to define. In the end, certainly on yesterday's experience, we had nothing to fear. Fair play, too, in Screensport.

Leave aside Bough, John Taylor's match commentary was excellent. He was calm, balanced, showed just enough excitement when he felt it and — as far as I could see — never missed a play.

ITV has to play nearly another 120 hours for all of us before this is over. Likewise Screensport, which covered the whole proceedings with the same pictures but different commentary. On the basis of yesterday afternoon, we will be well served over the next month.

Regretting the day when a Fox ruled the roost

SIMON BARNES

Grant Fox stares at the goalposts again. Grant Fox kicks the ball through the posts.

That was how New Zealand scored 14 of their 18 points as they beat England yesterday. They scored the rest in a bizarre new method I don't think I have ever seen before. A chap called Jones ran over the England line with the ball and put it down.

Apparently this is called a try, and it is worth four points. After the try, Grant Fox was allowed to make another mud pie, etc.

England responded by scoring three mud pies of their own. They actually scored three more points that didn't come from a penalty. These came from a free kick. It was the sort of game that makes you look forward avidly to the

next three-hour plane delay at Luton.

Please don't think I write these words out of miffed nationalistic fervour. I had decided to write them at half-time, when England were winning. The game was decided entirely by refereeing decisions. This does not make for drama, grace, speed, mayhem, confrontation, excitement, joy, disappointment and a revelling in the greatness of human possibilities.

Already I'm reminded of the last World Cup I attended. This was the football one last year. The unending ritual of tedious, negative manoeuvres that preceded the inevitable penalty shoot-out drove us all mad. What has gone wrong, that two games, both capable of giving us all the drama we could possibly desire, become so mind-bogglingly tedious? The spectator is penalised more than any of the players.

It is unfair to blame referees. If they see offences, they must punish them. If players keep offending, refs have no option but to give incessant penalties. The question, then, is why rugby players concede so many penalties in kickable positions.

There are a number of



Fox: busy getting his kicks

possible reasons for this. One is that the players are undisciplined idiots. I reject this. You don't have to be a genius to see that yesterday's match was played by 30 very serious men. Another is that the modern players are so depraved they don't care what rules they break. This cannot be true because conceding penalties makes you lose, and you can rely on modern players to care a good deal about that.

A further possibility is that the players don't know what the rules are. There is something of truth in this. Rugby's rules are phenomenally complex and constantly changing. A final reason is that the rules are not enforced properly.

It is a fact of life that no player in any game plays according to the strict rules — not in a match as "important" as a World Cup. It is obvious that the task of keeping an eye

on all that goes on is beyond one man's capacity, even with linesmen to help. Yet rugby players get away with more than they are ever punished for. They play in mauls and rucks and line-outs in the constant habit of breaking the rules. Rules at this level are no good at all unless they are enforced.

A single referee can handle a club match — but at this level, plainly, something more is required. American football has seven officials. That is how a game of unflinching physical confrontation can operate at so high a level.

Rugby has grown phenomenally, as this entire World Cup demonstrates. It has also grown beyond the competence of its officials. Who benefits? Only the man with the mud pies.



TORONTO for NEW YEAR

Fly supersonic on Concorde to Toronto on 27 December * five nights at the deluxe Sheraton * city tour * visit Niagara Falls with luncheon * falls helicopter excursion * Phantom of the Opera * New Year's Eve Dinner at the CN Tower * BA 747 return £1,999

747 both ways * all above tours £999

CAIRO and LUXOR

Airbus to Cairo on 26 November * two nights in Cairo and three in Luxor at deluxe hotels * tour Pyramids, Sphinx, Egyptian Museum, Citadel, Bazaar, Valley of the Kings, Denderah, Abydos, Temples of Karnak and Luxor * Nile Dinner Cruise * Concorde supersonic return £1,499

New Year in Cairo and Luxor * 30 Dec. - 6 Jan. * 747 both ways * deluxe hotels * all tours £699

QE2 and the ORIENT-EXPRESS

Venice Simplon-Orient-Express Pullman to Southampton on 30 November * cruise for twelve nights on QE2 * ports-of-call at Madeira, Las Palmas, Dakar, Tenerife, Lanzarote and Agadir * Concorde return from Lisbon £1,999

Concorde to Lisbon on 12 December * city tour * celebrate Christmas on the two-night QE2 cruise to Southampton £999

For further information, please telephone: 081-992 6991 or write to: SUPERLATIVE TRAVEL, 43 Woodhurst Road, London, W3 6SS. Superlative Travel is a trading name of Superlative Ltd.